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Snowed-in South makes the best of day off from work, school

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Snowed-in Southerners made the best of a day without work or school Monday while officials warned that roads remained treacherous even as the worst of a wintry storm departed. Snow, sleet and freezing rain tapered off across states from Georgia to West Virginia that were recovering from outages, canceled flights and numerous car wrecks. But officials cautioned that Tuesday's commute could be treacherous as plunging temperatures turn melted snow into ice on roads. The storm was blamed for at least three deaths in North Carolina. And an overturned truck full of pigs added to traffic delays in western North Carolina.

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A snow plow is followed closely by cars as it clears US301 in Hanover County, Va. on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press









Justices won't hear states' appeal over Planned Parenthood

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday avoided a high-profile case by rejecting appeals from Kansas and Louisiana in their effort to strip Medicaid money from Planned Parenthood, over the dissenting votes of three justices. The court's order reflected a split among its conservative justices and an accusation from Justice Clarence Thomas that his colleagues seemed to be ducking the case for political reasons. New Justice Brett Kavanaugh was among the justices who opted not to hear the case. The two states were appealing lower court rulings that had blocked them from withholding money that is used for health services for low-income women. The money is not used for abortions. Abortion opponents have said Planned Parenthood should not receive any government money, and they seized on heavily edited videos that claimed to show the nation's largest abortion provider profiting from sales of fetal tissue for medical research. Investigations sparked by the videos in several states didn't result in criminal charges.



In this Oct. 4, 2018 photo, the U.S. Supreme Court is seen at sunset in Washington.
Associated Press

The dispute at the high court has nothing to do with abortion, as Thomas pointed out in a dissent that was joined by Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch. Kavanaugh's decision not to join the three justices was his first discernible vote on the court. Had he or Chief Justice John Roberts voted to hear the case, there would have been the four votes necessary to set the case for arguments.

The issue is who has the right to challenge a state's Medicaid funding decisions, private individuals or only the federal government. The states say that the Medicaid program, a joint venture of federal and state governments to provide health care to poorer Americans, makes clear that only the Secretary of Health and Human Services can intervene, by withholding money from a state. Most lower federal courts have found that private parties can challenge Medicaid funding decisions in court, although the federal appeals court in St. Louis rejected a similar court challenge and allowed Arkansas to end its contract with Planned Parenthood. A split among federal appeals courts is often a reason for the Supreme Court to step in.

"So what explains the court's refusal to do its job here? I suspect it has something to do with the fact that some respondents in these cases are named 'Planned Parenthood.' That makes the Court's decision particularly troubling, as the question presented has nothing to do with abortion," Thomas wrote.

The dispute over funding for Planned Parenthood stemmed from the July 2015 release by the anti-abortion group Center for Medical Progress of a series of edited videos purportedly depicting Planned Parenthood of America executives talking about the sale of fetal tissue. Planned Parenthood has said it did not seek any payments beyond legally permitted reimbursement of costs.

Catherine Glenn Foster, president and CEO of the anti-abortion Americans United for Life, said the court should have heard the case. "But the good news is that there are other similar cases pending in lower courts, which may give the Supreme Court another opportunity to decide this important issue. In the meantime, AUL will continue to fight to protect states from being forced to use their limited public funds to subsidize abortion businesses," Foster said.

Planned Parenthood president Dr. Leana Wen praised the decision to leave the lower court rulings in place. "As a doctor, I have seen what's at stake when people cannot access the care they need, and when politics gets in the way of people making their own health care choices. We won't stop fighting for every patient who relies on Planned Parenthood for life-saving, life-changing care," Wen said.

Kansas' outgoing Republican governor and incoming Democratic administration offered differing reactions to the court's action.❑





Snowed-in South

Continued from Front

Scores of schools canceled class Monday, and many businesses and government offices — including Virginia's executive-branch agencies in Richmond — were closed.

For those staying close to home, the storm provided a chance to sled, drink hot chocolate with friends or simply take in a wintry landscape in places that don't often see so much of the white stuff.

In North Carolina's Durham County, where a foot (.3 meters) fell in places Sunday, kids reveled in a day off from school as a second dusting of snow and sleet fell Monday morning. Children threw snowballs or built snowmen, and a young girl in a pink jacket threw her hands up and yelled "Merry Christmas!" at a passer-by along a residential sidewalk.

A few cars passed on the road, but several people decided it was safer to get where they were going by foot. Andrew Dedman, 16, was walking about a mile (1.6 kilometers) through a flurry to visit a friend on their day off from high school.

"We're just going to hang out, sit around, drink hot chocolate," he said.

Others ventured Monday into ankle-deep snowdrifts to walk dogs. Ron Gordon, 75, donned boots and a hooded winter jacket to take out his dog, Easy.

"She seems to like it," he said, holding a walking stick for extra traction. "She enjoys it more than I do."

The semi-retired photographer said he could work inside for the rest of the day, and he can cook on the gas stove even if the house loses power again, as it did for several hours Sunday. He said he moved to Durham from Chicago several years ago and was surprised to see this much snow: "I didn't expect this."

The North Carolina Department of Transportation said a livestock truck carrying pigs overturned on Interstate 40 westbound near the Tennessee line. The westbound lanes were closed temporarily Monday so the pigs could be corralled, but at least one lane was reopened by midafternoon.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said Monday that the worst of the storm had passed, but residents — particularly motorists — should keep watch for dangerous conditions. Melting snow and ice could result in slick road conditions Tuesday morning as temperatures fall and moisture refreezes, Cooper said at a news conference. The Highway Patrol already had responded to more than 670 collisions and nearly 1,600 calls for services since the storm began.

Snowfall totals topped 20 inches (50 centimeters) in some areas of the western part of the state, according to the National Weather Service.

A truck driver died Sunday after suffering what appeared to be a heart attack from shoveling out his rig that got stuck at the height of the storm along Interstate 77 in the central part of the state, Yadkin County Emergency Services Director Keith Vestal said.

The state emergency operations center also said one man died Sunday when a tree fell on him in Mecklenburg County, while an ailing woman died in Haywood County when her oxygen was cut off due to power outages.

Governors and local officials declared emergencies ahead of the storm crossing several Southern states, which hit portions of North Carolina and Virginia particularly hard.

Flight cancellations and delays continued Monday at Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the sixth busiest airport in the country. The airport had nearly 400 cancellations, about one-fourth of its scheduled flights. More than 244,000 power outages were reported across the region Monday morning, with North Carolina bearing the brunt of it, according to poweroutage.us. South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee also had outages reported Monday.❑



Pigs wander the shoulder of Interstate 40 near the state line with Tennessee in Haywood County, North Carolina, after a crash on Monday Dec. 10, 2018. The crash caused delays while local farmers helped authorities corral the pigs.

Associated Press

Customs officers searching more travelers' devices

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are searching the electronic devices of travelers more often, and did not always follow proper protocol, a new watchdog report has found.

The report made public Monday found there were 29,000 devices searched at a port of entry out of 397 million travelers to the U.S. in budget year 2017, up from 18,400 the year before from 390 million travelers.

Officers are allowed under law to look through devices of travelers who are referred for a secondary inspection. During the primary inspection, travel documents and passports are reviewed. If a secondary inspection is needed, officers may search devices like phones, thumb drives and computers to determine admissibility into the country, and also to identify potential law violations.

For example, in March 2018, officers found images and videos of terrorist-related materials, and in another search, graphic and violent images including child pornography. Neither person was admitted into the United States, according to the report.

But the Office of the Inspector General for Homeland Security found some searches were not properly documented, and data not properly secured. Some of the devices searched were not taken offline, in violation of procedures that say officers can search the physical device but not what's on a traveler's cloud network.

Homeland Security is the department that oversees the nation's borders. In addition, in some cases, under a pilot program, officers can do an "advanced" search which means a specially trained officer downloads information. But the system wasn't maintained properly — software licensing wasn't renewed — and some information copied to thumb drives was not deleted when it should have been.❑



Presidential hopefuls pushed to go big on climate change

By ELANA SCHOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmental activists are ramping up a pressure campaign designed to drum up Democratic support for a sweeping agenda to fight climate change, with the 2020 presidential campaign in their sights.

Hundreds of young demonstrators turned out Monday on Capitol Hill to push Democrats on a package of ambitious environmental goals — including a nationwide transition to 100 percent power from renewable sources within as little as 10 years — that's collectively dubbed the Green New Deal. Already embraced by Rep.-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., an increasingly influential figure on the left, the Green New Deal is designed to nudge prospective Democratic presidential candidates to stake out aggressive positions on climate change. Some cast the goals as idealistic and politically risky. Organizers with the Sunrise Movement activist group frame it as a make-or-break issue for Democratic voters, particularly young ones. But they're fighting recent history on that point. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., jockeyed during the 2016 Democratic presidential primary over their plans to stave off the devastating effects that scientists have warned of as temperatures continue to rise. Ultimately, however, other issues dominated the debate, and climate change barely registered during the 2016 general election.



In this June 1, 2017 file photo, protesters gather outside the White House in Washington to protest President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the Unites States from the Paris climate change accord.

Associated Press

Stephen O'Hanlon, a spokesman for the Sunrise Movement, said, "Any senators or any other politician who wants the votes of young people in 2020 needs to back a Green New Deal that would transform our economy and create millions of new jobs stopping climate change." As he weighs another White House run, Sanders has staked out an early claim on the issue, hosting Ocasio-Cortez for a climate change town hall last week and preparing a forthcoming proposal that an aide said is likely to align with the broad goals of the Green New Deal. "Next Congress I will be working on legislation that addresses the scope of the crisis we face, creates tens of millions of jobs and saves American families money while holding fossil fuel companies accountable for the enormous damage they have done to our planet," Sanders said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Our job is to be bold, to think very big and to go forward in a moral struggle to protect our planet and future generations."

When Sanders introduced single-payer health care legislation last year, most Senate Democrats also considering presidential runs signed on at the outset. It's not clear, however, whether other prominent Democrats eyeing the White House would back Sanders' forthcoming climate change bill or seek to carve out their own territory. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., said last week that "obviously, we have been doing a lot of work trying to find some bolder things we as a nation could be doing" on climate change. Booker spokeswoman Kristin Lynch that his staff has held dozens of meetings since the summer aimed at shaping a broad climate bill and that he welcomes the activists' effort to spotlight the issue. The staff of Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., has been in contact with the organizers behind the Green New Deal push, according to spokeswoman Lily Adams, who said the senator is broadly supportive of the sort of sweeping climate change agenda that the effort envisions. As legislation aimed at enacting the Green New Deal begins to take shape, Adams added, Harris plans to take a close look at it. The Green New Deal deliberately omits details on how to reorient the United States toward the drastic carbon emissions reductions it calls for, instead calling for a select committee in the House to devise a plan by 2020. That timetable is designed to rally Democrats behind a climate change strategy as they're picking a nominee to take on President Donald Trump, who has rolled back multiple environmental regulations and cast doubt on the scientific consensus that human activity is driving global warming.❑





U.S. starts to withdraw troops from Trump border mission

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. this week will begin withdrawing many of the active duty troops sent to the border with Mexico by President Donald Trump just before the midterm election in response to a caravan of Central American migrants, U.S. officials said Monday.

About 2,200 of the active duty troops will be pulled out before the holidays, the officials said, shrinking an unusual domestic deployment that was viewed by critics as a political stunt and a waste of military resources.

That will leave about 3,000 active duty troops in Texas, Arizona and California, mainly comprised of military police and helicopter transport crews who are assisting border patrol agents. There also will still be about 2,300 members of the National Guard who were sent to the border region as part of a separate deployment that started in April.

The active duty troops, numbering about 5,200 as of Monday, were initially scheduled to stay until Dec. 15. Late last month, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis extended the mission to the end of January at the request of the Department of Homeland Security. It's unclear if it will be extended again. The U.S. forces have installed vast amounts of razor wire and provided transportation and protection for the Border Patrol. The troops are not there to directly deal with the Central American migrants, many of whom eventually made their way to Tijuana, just south of California.

One of the officials said that some of the military police and helicopter crews will stay in the border region so they can quickly respond if they are needed by border agents. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans not yet made public.

Active duty troops began arriving at the border in early November for an initial 45-day deployment, in response to the caravan, which at one point numbered about 7,000 people, including many families with children.

On Monday, Col. Rob Manning said there are currently 2,200 active duty troops in Texas; 1,350 in Arizona; and 1,650 in California.

"Some units have completed their mission and they have already started to partially redeploy. Other units have been identified to rotate home and will be returning home over the next several weeks," Manning said.❑



U.S. Border Patrol agents stand in front of a secondary fence in San Diego, California looking across border wall toward Mexico as they respond to a group of Central American migrants who crossed the border wall illegally, seen from across the wall in Tijuana, Mexico, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

In possible plea deal, accused Russian agent case 'resolved'

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman accused of being a secret agent for the Russian government has likely taken a plea deal, prosecutors indicated Monday in a court filing that said her case has been "resolved."

The information was included in a filing in the case against Maria Butina. Federal prosecutors and Butina's lawyer filed a joint motion asking to change her plea. A hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Prosecutors have alleged Butina, 30, gathered intelligence on American officials and political organizations and worked to develop relationships with American politicians through her contacts with the National Rifle Association. They have charged that her work was directed by a former Russian lawmaker who was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for his alleged ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Butina, who was arrested in July, was charged with conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent for Russia. Her lawyer has argued that Butina is a student interested in American politics and better U.S.-Russian relations.

The documents did not provide details about the resolution. However, for several weeks, prosecutors and Butina's lawyer have indicated in court papers that they were negotiating and may have been nearing a plea deal.

The charges against Butina were brought by federal prosecutors in Washington, D.C., and her case is unrelated to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.❑



In this April 21, 2013 file photo, Maria Butina, leader of a pro-gun organization in Russia, speaks to a crowd during a rally in support of legalizing the possession of handguns in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

Trump scrambling to find new White House chief of staff

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wanted: Top aide to most powerful leader in world. Chief qualification: Willing to take the job. Must also be prepared to tolerate regular undermining by boss and risk of steep legal bills. Post-employment prospects: Uncertain.

President Donald Trump is scrambling to find a new chief of staff after his first choice to replace John Kelly bailed at the last minute and several other potential successors signaled they weren't interested in the job.

Back to square one, Trump is mulling over a list of at least four potential candidates after Nick Ayers, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, took himself out of the running Sunday and decided that he would instead be leaving the White House. The announcement surprised even senior staffers who believed that Ayers' ascension was a done deal.

Trump is now soliciting input on a list of candidates that is said to include Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., the chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie. And allies are pitching Trump on even more contenders.

But as quickly as names were being floated, candidates appeared to be pulling themselves from consideration, underscoring the challenges of working for a mercurial president who has acknowledged that he likes to surround himself with chaos and despises any suggestion he's being managed.

"In the best of times, it is relentless," said Chris Whipple, an expert on chiefs of staff and author of "The Gatekeepers," a book on the subject. "It's 24/7. It's thankless. You get all of the blame and none of the credit for everything that happens. And that's in the best of times. We are not in the best of times."



In a Monday, Dec. 3, 2018 file photo, Nick Ayers, right, listens as Supreme Court Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch waits for the arrival of the casket for former President George H.W. Bush to lie in State at the Capitol on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump's administration has set records for staff turnover, and the president has often struggled to attract experienced political professionals, a challenge that has grown more difficult with the upcoming threat of costly Democratic oversight investigations and an uncertain political environment. Those who take high-level positions in the White House at this time open themselves up to potential legal exposure and pricey lawyer bills, said David B. Cohen, a political science professor at The University of Akron who co-wrote a book on chiefs of staff.

Meadows said Monday he had not discussed the role with the president, but one congressional Republican said Meadows has told others he wants the job.

"It's not been anything that I've been out advocating for," Meadows told Fox News, but he added that "my life changed" after Ayers decided to pull out of the job.

Meanwhile, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, a potential contender, said he was "entirely focused" on his current position. A person familiar with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's thinking but not authorized to speak publicly made clear he, too, is happy in his current post.

While some of the reactions may be strategic posturing, there is also ample reason for any aspiring chief of staff to give pause to the notion of taking the job.

Trump has already burned through two chiefs of staff — a former chairman of the Republican National Committee and a retired Marine four-star general — subjecting them to regular humiliation and ridicule.

Former RNC Chairman Reince Priebus's departure from the White House was unceremoniously announced by tweet. Nearly 18 months later, Trump stepped on an orderly succession plan for Kelly, making a surprise Saturday announcement on the White House lawn that the retired general would be leaving by year's end.

Ayers' ascension and Kelly's departure looked like a done deal Friday night, according to multiple people in and close to the administration, with an announcement planned for Monday. Trump and Ayers had discussed the job for months, and the president had already been steering inquiries to the Pence staffer rather than Kelly. These people, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive personnel matters.

But Trump jumped the gun Saturday, and Ayers re-evaluated his decision. While a White House official said Ayers' decision was driven by a desire to return to Georgia to be closer to his family, people familiar with his thinking said he was also worried about scrutiny of his former political consulting business. He and Trump also could not reach agreement on Ayers' length of service. Ayers wanted to serve on an interim basis; Trump wanted a two-year commitment.

Trump was stung by Ayers' decision to back out, according to people close to him. The embarrassment comes at a pivotal time for Trump, as he prepares for re-election while facing an expected onslaught of investigations from Democrats who will take control of the House and amid the ongoing Russia probe.

When Trump appoints a replacement for Kelly, he will set a record for most chiefs of staff within the first 24 months of an administration, according to an analysis by Kathryn Dunn Tenpas of the Brookings Institution.

Yet Trump once mocked his predecessor for chief of staff turnover.

"3 Chief of Staffs in less than 3 years of being President: Part of the reason why @BarackObama can't manage to pass his agenda," Trump wrote in a 2012 tweet.

Trump had said Saturday that he would be announcing Kelly's replacement in the next day or two. But with Ayers no longer waiting in the wings, there is fear that Trump may not have someone in place in time for Kelly's departure or that he will pick the first person who comes to mind as he tries to counter perceptions that no one wants the position.❑

Study: Social media surpasses newspapers as news source

NEW YORK (AP) — A survey says Americans today are more likely to get news from social media web sites than newspapers.

The Pew Research Center said Monday that 20 percent of Americans cited social media as a frequent news source, compared to 16 percent that credited newspapers. It's the first time since Pew has found sites like Facebook and Twitter outpacing newspapers.

Pew has been asking about news consumption, with a slight change in wording, since 1991. That year, 56 percent of Americans said newspapers when asked where they had gotten their news yesterday.

The survey also found that 81 percent of people aged 65 and over often get news from television, compared to only 16 percent of people aged 18 to 29.❑



Wall Street's Fearless Girl statue gets new place of honor

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fearless Girl is making her stand outside the very temple of American capitalism.

The hands-on-her-hips statue that spent most of the past two years staring down Wall Street's Charging Bull sculpture, becoming a spunky symbol of feminine empowerment, was unveiled Monday at her new permanent home, in front of the New York Stock Exchange.

"We're honored to welcome Fearless Girl to the very spot that has captured the minds of business leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs," Betty Liu, executive vice chairman of the stock exchange, said at a ceremony to reintroduce the 4-foot (130-centimeter) statue. "You're among friends here at the New York Stock Exchange."

The statue was commissioned by Boston-based investment fund State Street Global Advisors as a way to push for more women on corporate boards. It was originally positioned across from the Charging Bull, on a traffic island near the tip of Manhattan, but was removed last month, in part because the admiring crowds around the two sculptures were creating a hazard.

The bull will eventually rejoin Fearless Girl near the stock exchange, but no date for the move has been given.

State Street CEO Cyrus Taraporevala said companies with female directors on their boards "tend to be better managed."



The Fearless Girl statue is unveiled at its new location in front of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in New York. Associated Press

"So for us, advocating for gender diversity is not some part of a political agenda. It's about our long-term performance agenda. This is about value, not values," he said.

Taraporevala said 301 companies that State Street identified as having no women on their boards have added at least one since Fearless Girl made her debut in March 2017. State Street's own 11-member board has three women, according to its website.

The statue was originally intended as a temporary display but quickly gained a fan base among tourists and locals who lined up to pose for photos with her.

"She really captivated all New Yorkers," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Manhattan Democrat. "New Yorkers really did not want to see her go."

Now, Maloney said, "instead of staring down the bull, she's going to be staring down all of business right here in the center and capital of business for America here in New York City."

Visitors to the stock exchange area said they were glad to see Fearless Girl there.

"She's out for battle," said New Yorker Theresa Smith, 45. "She's going out for the big stuff. When you think of the stock exchange, we are talking money, we are talking New York City, we are talking capital, and she's headed to the top and she's on her way."

The reinstallation of Fearless Girl comes as New York, like other U.S. cities, is grappling with questions of whether its monuments are truly representative.

There are only five statues of real historical women in public places in the city; officials announced last month that a monument to pioneering congresswoman Shirley Chisholm will be the sixth.

"Having a young girl in a place of great male dominance and power is appealing because right now it seems to me that women still are invisible," said Setha Low, a professor of anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.❑

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Macron vows tax cuts, pay rise; will France's anger subside?

By SYLVIE CORBET
ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron tried to reassert control over a nation wracked by increasingly violent protests with offers of tax relief for struggling workers and pensioners — and an exceptional admission Monday that "I might have hurt people with my words."

It may not be enough.

Even as Macron broke his silence on the protests in a brief televised address, yellow-vested demonstrators vowed to keep up the pressure on a man they see as arrogant, out-of-touch and "president of the rich."

"We are at a historic moment for our country," the French leader said from the presidential Elysee Palace. "We will not resume the normal course of our lives" after all that has happened.

Speaking with a soft voice and gentle tone, Macron pleaded for a return to calm after almost four weeks of protests that started in neglected provinces to oppose fuel tax increases and progressed to rioting in Paris and a plethora of broad demands.

It's a turning point in Macron's presidency, and a crucial moment for both France and Europe. Macron rode to the presidency last year on promises of rejuvenating France's stagnant economy and salvaging European unity. His credibility on both fronts is now deeply damaged, just as the EU struggles with Britain's chaotic exit and as France's protests have prompted copycat movements beyond its borders.



TV screens show French President Emmanuel during a televised address to the nation, at an electrical appliance store in Marseille, southern France, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

Associated Press

French protesters spent days demanding that Macron speak publicly about their concerns. After he did, they took to French airwaves and social media to dissect his promises.

"It doesn't solve the problem," a protester in a yellow vest, Alain Bouche, told BFM television from a yellow-vest roadblock southwest of Paris. He said fellow demonstrators want a national referendum, too.

Some protest representatives have said more demonstrations will be held Saturday, following those in Paris that turned violent during the previous two weekends.

Meanwhile, students opposing changes in key high school tests are calling for a new round of protests Tuesday.

Macron declared an "economic and social state of emergency," ordering the government and parliament to take immediate steps to change tax rules and other policies that hit the wallets of working class French people.

He responded to several of the protesters' demands, promising measures that included:

-a government-funded 100-euro increase in the minimum wage starting at the beginning of the new year

-the abolition of taxes on overtime pay in 2019

-asking profit-making companies to give workers tax-free year-end bonuses

-slashing a tax hike on small pensions, acknowledging it was "unjust."

One thing he didn't do: restore a special tax on households with assets above 1.3 million euros ($1.5 million) that he had slashed last year. Yellow vest protesters decry the end of the tax and wanted it revived.

Overall, Macron unveiled no radical changes, and clung to his vision for transforming France. Yet his costly promises will make it even more difficult to boost growth — already being hammered by protests that have damaged holiday retail sales and worried tourists and foreign investors.

"It's more of a budgetary adjustment than a change of political course," said Benjamin Cauchy, a yellow vest protest representative. "That doesn't correspond to what the French want."

Some protesters just wanted one thing: Macron to announce "I quit."

He showed no signs of giving in. Instead, he defended his political independence and described his devotion to serving France. No French presidential or parliamentary elections are scheduled until 2022.

The most remarkable part of the speech may have been the moment Macron said: "I take my share of responsibility" for the anger gripping France.

It was an unusual admission for a president whose leadership has appeared marked by a single-minded determination to push through reforms he promised in his 2017 campaign, regardless of the fallout.

"I might have hurt people with my words," he said.

Indeed, he wounded many when he told a jobless man he just had to "cross the street" to find work. Or when he told retirees with small pensions to stop complaining. Or when he suggested some French workers are "lazy." However, the centrist leader insisted Monday that the protesters' "malaise" is as old as he is — 40 years — and coincides with France's struggles in recent decades to keep up with globalization.

And he denounced the protest-associated violence that led to hundreds of injuries, more than 1,000 arrests and the ransacking of stores in some of Paris' richest neighborhoods.

Authorities will show "no indulgence" to those behind the vandalism and rioting, Macron said, adding that "no anger justifies" attacking police or looting stores.

Political analyst Dominique Moisi said the important thing in Macron's speech was not only "what he said but the way he said it."

Macron sought to establish his authority by declaring he wouldn't tolerate violence, but also "gave the impression that he understood what is happening," Moisi said.❑

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Afl 480.000 $ 270.000

SEROE BLANCO 319


3 Bed - 2 Bath, Corner Plot
Brand New, Central Location
land: 796 m² / 8,568 FT²
Home: 177 m² / 1,905 Ft²
Afl 533.000 $ 299.000

TANQUI LEENDERT 139

4 Bed - 3 Bath, Cover Back Patio
Full renewed, Gourmet Kitchen
land: 414 m² / 4,456 Ft²
Home: 230 m² / 2,476 Ft ²
Afl 560.000 $ 315.000

GOLD COAST T. H.

2 Bed - 2 Bath, Town house
Diamante, Fully Furnished
Fully Equiped, Ground Floor
Home: 90 m² / 969 Ft²
Afl 579.000 $ 325.000

LAS ROCAS 14 D


3 Bed - 2 Bath, Condominium
Tierra del Sol Golf Club
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PIEDRA PLAAT 5 K


3 Bed - 2 Bath, Swimming-pool
New, Garage, Fully Furnished
land: 472 m² / 5,081 Ft²
Home: 140 m² / 1,507 Ft²
Afl 639.000 $ 359.000

PALM BEACH 320

4 Bed - 3 Bath, w/guest casita
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3 Houses in One, over 489m² of Land
H.1: 2Bed - 2Bath; 130m²/1400Ft²
H.2: 2Bed - 2Bath; 103m²/1109Ft²
H 3: 2Bed - 2Bath, 130m²/1400Ft²
Afl 850.000 $ 478.000

LAS CAMPEONAS 1


3 Bed - 3 Bath, Swimming-pool
Tierra del Sol, Garage, Furnished
land: 627 m² / 6,749 Ft²
Home: 180 m² / 1,937 Ft²
Afl 935.000 $ 525.000

Protesters disrupt US fossil fuel event at UN climate talks

By FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Protesters disrupted a U.S. government event at United Nations climate talks Monday, criticizing the Trump administration's policy of backing the extraction of fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

About 100 people from groups representing indigenous peoples and youth stood up and chanted "Keep it in the ground" near the beginning of the American presentation. As cameras swarmed around them, some of the protesters explained the extraction of coal, oil and natural gas affects their communities.

The U.S. event, titled "U.S. Innovative Technologies Spur Economic Dynamism," took place on the sidelines of the ongoing U.N. meeting in Katowice, Poland. After several minutes, the activists left the room chanting "Shame on you." Their actions mirrored a similar protest during a U.S.-hosted panel at last year's U.N. climate talks in Bonn, Germany.

Wells Griffith, a Trump administration adviser at the Department of Energy, said after the interruption that the United States would continue extracting fossil fuels, including through hydraulic fracking. Speaking at the event, Griffith warned against "alarmism" over climate change, adding that "all energy sources are important, and they will be utilized unapologetically."



Youth and indigenous groups protest against fossil fuels during US-hosted event at the UN climate talks in Katowice, Poland, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, as the COP24 UN Climate Change Conference takes place in the city.

Associated Press

The panel's premise — that fossil fuels can be made "clean" through innovation — stands at odds with recommendations from scientists who say countries should transition to renewable energy sources as soon as possible or risk catastrophic levels of global warming by the end of the century.

Investors, too, have backed a shift away from fossil fuels. On Monday, 415 pension funds and insurance companies, with over $32 trillion in assets, called on governments to phase out coal-fired power plants and put a meaningful price on carbon to help tackle climate change.

Jan Erik Saugestad, the chief executive of Storebrand, a Norwegian fund that manages $85 billion in assets, said even highly efficient coal plants are highly damaging to the environment and carbon capture technology — touted by some as a way to pull emissions out of the air again — isn't economical.

"Investors are not going to be sold fake news on coal, which seeks to mask the rapid decline of the U.S. coal industry and disregards the solar and wind growth markets," said Saugestad. Even as the Trump administration promoted coal abroad, new figures show coal consumption by the U.S. power grid this year will be the lowest since 1979 as a wave of coal-fired power plants shut down.

Andrew Light, a former U.S. State Department official, said the U.S. event was unlikely to affect the landmark Paris agreement to limit global warming.

Most of the world's countries are signatories to the 2015 agreement, while President Donald Trump has said he will withdraw the United States from it.

"This event has the audience of one person and that is President Trump," said Light, who is now a senior adviser with the environmental group World Resources Institute.

He said the U.S. government's arguments were more likely to upset than win over other governments represented at the talks in Katowice.

Over the weekend, the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait prevented endorsement of a scientific report on keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) — the most ambitious target in the 2015 Paris climate accord. ❑

Nearly 85 percent of UN nations back migration deal; not US

By AMIRA EL MASAITI
JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — Defying fierce opposition from the U.S. and a few other nations, nearly 85 percent of U.N. member states agreed Monday on a sweeping yet non-binding accord to ensure safe, orderly and humane migration.

The debate over the Global Compact for Migration, the first of its kind, has proven to be a pivotal test of the U.N.-led effort to crack down on the often dangerous and illegal movements across borders that have turned people smuggling into a worldwide industry, and give people seeking economic opportunity a chance.



Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel walks past U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for International Migration Louise Arbor in Marrakech, Morocco, Monday, Dec.10, 2018.

Associated Press

"Unregulated migration bears a terrible human cost: a cost in lives lost on perilous journeys across deserts, oceans and rivers; and a cost in lives ruined at the hands of smugglers, unscrupulous employers and other predators," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a migration conference in Marrakech, Morocco. "More than 60,000 migrants have died on the move since the year 2000," he said. "This is a source of collective shame."

Migration affects hundreds of millions of people across the globe — farmers coming off the land or forced by climate change to head to cities, families fleeing war or persecution at home, impoverished workers from the developing world looking for jobs in rich countries. It can also involve high-skilled workers from developed nations looking for opportunities beyond their homelands.

Defenders say migration greases the wheels of the world economy by diversifying and rejuvenating workforce in aging rich countries and providing a needed source of cash to poorer countries through remittances sent home by migrants. Opponents often fear that an influx of migrants can dilute their countries' character, import poverty or crime, reduce wages and take jobs from tax-paying citizens.

A total of 164 countries among the 193 U.N. members approved the agreement by acclamation Monday. The U.N. General Assembly will meet on Dec. 19 to endorse it.

At the two-day conference, U.N. leaders were hoping to lure in holdouts from mostly Western nations who were not signing: Australia, Austria, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia along with the United States, which under President Donald Trump did not participate in drafting the accord.

Louise Arbour of Canada, a former U.N. human rights chief, said the issue also has been tied up in parliamentary debates in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy, Israel, Slovenia and Switzerland — although some of them did participate in creating the accord, which has since been ensnared by tough political headwinds.❑

Armenian PM's bloc wins majority in parliamentary vote

By AVET DEMOURIAN
Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Allies of Armenia's new leader have won an overwhelming majority of seats in the country's early parliamentary election, according to preliminary results released Monday.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian, a 43-year-old former journalist, took over in May after spearheading massive protests that forced his predecessor to step down. He had pushed for an early parliamentary vote to win control of the chamber that was dominated by his political foes.



Acting Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian casts his ballot in a polling station during an early parliamentary election in Yerevan, Armenia, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

Pashinian himself has found broad popularity, tapping into public anger over widespread poverty, high unemployment and rampant corruption in the former Soviet nation of 3 million that borders Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. Those figures represent a crushing defeat for the former ruling Republicans Party of Armenia's longtime leader Serzh Sargsyan, who was ousted from office in May by the protests led by Pashinian. Sargsyan was accused of trying to cling to power by switching to be prime minister after 10 years as president, and lasted only days in that role.

The preliminary vote results Monday showed the Republicans polling less than 5 percent, which means it will be unlikely to make it into parliament.

An election observers' mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on Monday praised the election for "genuine competition," saying the vote was "held with respect to fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust."

The OSCE noted there was no vote-buying or pressure on voters but expressed concern over "cases of inflammatory rhetoric online."❑


Pelican Adventures
Celebrating our 30th anniversary with YOU!
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Visit us at Casa del Mar, Playa Linda, Holiday Inn Concierge/lobby desk/ beach huts, RIU Hut between Antilla & Palace Hotel on the beach, or at our own Pelican Pier located between the Holiday Inn & Playa Linda Resort.
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Cyprus sees surge in migrants crossing from breakaway north

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — On the final leg of his journey from Iraq to Europe, Hawye Rasool Saleh paid 400 euros ($457) borrowed from his best friend to a smuggler who would help him across the cease-fire line of ethnically split Cyprus.

The transaction was sealed in anonymity.

"You don't know me, I don't know you," the 32-year-old Saleh said he was told by the trafficker before he climbed into a van on the Turkish Cypriot side.

The crossing was easy, Saleh said. Two soldiers manning a guard post on the Turkish Cypriot side checked the driver's ID, then waved the van through to the buffer zone that divides the breakaway northern part of the Mediterranean island from the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus, a European Union member.

Saleh, who said he fled religious fundamentalism in Iraq, is one of the thousands of migrants who have slipped into Cyprus this year across its porous 180-kilometer-long (120-mile-long) buffer zone. Migrant arrivals by sea have also increased, turning tiny Cyprus into the EU's top recipient of asylum-seekers relative to its population size, as other EU countries have tightened their borders.



In this Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018, a migrant from Syria rests at a refugee camp in Kokkinotrimithia outside of Nicosia, Cyprus.

Associated Press

Government statistics show that about 5,000 people — mostly from Syria but also Somalia, Pakistan, India, Iraq, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cameroon — had claimed asylum in Cyprus by the end of August. That's expected to reach 8,000 by year's end, up from 3,000 in 2016. While that's a fraction of the hundreds of thousands seeking asylum in the EU, it's putting pressure on a country with just over 1 million people.

"We're trying to cope, but for a long time, now, we have exceeded our fair share," Cypriot Interior Minister Constantinos Petrides told The Associated Press.

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Authorities in the north aren't recognized by the international community except for Turkey, which itself doesn't recognize the Cypriot government in the Greek-speaking south.

Despite its proximity to the conflict zones of the Middle East, Cyprus received relatively few asylum-seekers during the peak of Europe's migrant crisis three years ago, when most migrants arrived in Greece and made their way through the Balkans toward countries in northern Europe. An island nation just emerging from a severe economic crisis, Cyprus wasn't seen as an attractive destination for migrants and refugees seeking shelter and a new life in Europe.

But that changed as nations in Europe shut their borders and the economic situation improved.❑

Kosovo's prime minister says new army will serve world peace

BY SYLEJMAN KLLOKOQI
LLAZAR SEMINI
Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovo's prime minister said Monday that the army the country expects to have soon will be a modest contributor to creating world peace.

Kosovo's lawmakers will vote Friday on three laws that would transform the national security force into a regular army. The measures are expected to easily pass the 120-member parliament.

Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj said that the transformation would make Kosovo a provider, not only a beneficiary, of peace.



In this Monday, Nov. 19, 2018 file photo, Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj addresses the media during a press conference at the federal chancellery in Vienna, Austria.

Associated Press

"You cannot be safe and secure, you can't help peace and stability of the world without being in peace yourself, having your own army," Haradinaj told The Associated Press.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, a move Serbia doesn't recognize.

Serbia's president has said the new army could jeopardize regional stability and peace, and its prime minister also warned it could trigger an armed intervention.

Last year, Kosovo's president initiated the same thing but backed down after international pressure.

NATO and the U.S. asked that the transformation be made with constitutional amendments, which need the votes of the ethnic Serb minority to pass.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has warned Kosovo "that such a move is ill-timed, goes against the advice of many NATO allies."

He called on both Serbian and Kosovo officials to "show calm and restraint, and avoid any provocative statements or actions." ❑



Goodyear halts tire production in Venezuela as economy slips

By JUAN CARLOS HERNANDEZ
Associated Press

VALENCIA, Venezuela (AP) — Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. is halting production in Venezuela, making it the latest international corporation to abandon a South American nation in economic crisis, officials said Monday.

Spokesman Eduardo Arguelles told The Associated Press that Goodyear-Venezuela had made the "difficult decision" to no longer produce tires in the country, which has seen an economic contraction worse than the U.S. Great Depression.

"Our goal had been to maintain its operations, but economic conditions and U.S. sanctions have made this impossible," Arguelles said. The company had endured tens of millions in losses in recent years as the Venezuelan bolivar plummeted in value against the U.S. dollar. The company based in Akron, Ohio, moved to deconsolidate its Venezuelan subsidiary in the fourth quarter of 2015, but continued to operate with a staff of about 1,100 from the depressed industrial city of Valencia.



A Goodyear billboard emblazoned with the Spanish word for welcome, is posted near a plant entrance company where workers arrived to find the plant is no longer in operation, in Los Guayabos, Venezuela, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

Associated Press

Workers who arrived at the plant Monday were stunned to find it was no longer in operation.

"They closed doors without saying anything," said Luis Aponte, a union worker who said government workers were on site assessing the situation.

There was no immediate response from the government. The announcement came after a letter issued "to whom it may concern" circulated online stating the company had been forced to cease operations and that starting Monday no one in Venezuela would be authorized to continue producing the company's products.

The letter also said Goodyear would fulfill its financial obligations to workers.❑

Migrants in Tijuana trickling over and under wall

Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A steady trickle of Central American migrants have been finding ways to climb over, tunnel under or slip through the U.S. border wall to plant their feet on U.S. soil and ask for asylum.

In recent weeks, Honduran migrant Joel Mendez fed his 8-month-old son, Daniel, before handing him over to his partner, Yesenia Martinez, who had crawled through a hole in the rain-softened soil under the wall. A group of young people hoisted themselves over the wall to San Ysidro, California, hoping that their ticket to a better life was finally within reach. One migrant offered a hand to help the others jumping down onto U.S. territory. They all sought to skip the long official wait on the Mexico side for filing asylum claim with the U.S. by getting over the wall and handing themselves over to U.S. agents. Last week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the San Diego sector had experienced a "slight uptick" in families entering the U.S. illegally with the goal of seeking asylum. Thousands of migrants are living in crowded tent cities in Tijuana after undertaking a grueling journey from Central America to the U.S. border. A large number have decided to make new lives in Mexico, applying for work permits and taking jobs at local factories while they wait as the U.S. government processes about 100 asylum requests a day at the San Ysidro crossing, the United States' busiest. But by word of mouth, some have realized they can simply cross into U.S. territory, largely uninhibited by Mexican authorities. In twos or threes — occasionally by the dozen — they arrive at the border wall and manage to get over. Often within minutes, border officers quickly arrive to escort them to detention centers and begin "credible fear" interviews. ❑

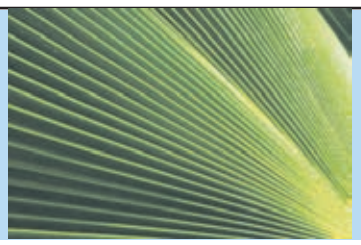


A Central American migrant lowers herself down from atop the border wall onto the U.S. side, after crossing in Playas of Tijuana, Mexico, late Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

LOCAL





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You Can Help by adding some Happiness:

"Building Youth Resilient from the Inside Out"



Kayla Rojas is Project Coordinator at the Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation: "We are a foundation focusing on youth between 14 and 25, empowering them by offering trainings, programs, seminars. Our mission is to offer young people the tools that can foster their personal development and enable them to be sustainable." The foundation believes in three R's when it comes to sustainability: Responsible, Respectful and Resilient. "Especially resilient as we work from the inside out and give them the tools to stand firmly in their shoes and that tomorrow –regardless of any obstacle they may confront in life- they can continue on without struggling or completely giving up. We strongly believe in building strength from the inside out."

Lot of the time you can look strong from the outside while from the inside you face sadness, traumas and struggle. There are several risk factors for young people: Individual factors like a lack of motivation and relationship with peers. Than you have the family factor; how involved are parents with the school, the education level of the family and the social-economic situation at home. The last one is the pull-push factor, the school climate, the



culture, the language and the environment. Kayla: "For example: Does the private situation prevent the child from going to school? We had a teenager who actually had to work to provide for his family, sacrificing school for an income at home. There is where we could be of help and support and guide." She explains that it is not a problems or an embarrassment to reach out. "We see that you have the potential but you are not unleashing it. That's how we try to turn it around."

Who Am I

"Our signature program is called 'The Power Within Me' and focuses on personal development and most of all self-esteem. Topics are 'How do you communicate', 'team work', 'what are your norms and values', 'answering the question Who Am I'. When you know that you build yourselves stronger and resistant against peer pressure or bullying. It is most about creating awareness and consciousness." Another training is 'The Sky Is The Limit' concentrating on visualization and goal setting. You could look at it as a guidance and support for young people.

Their Future

Besides Kayla as the Project Coordinator, the foundation is run by the director and volunteers. The director is a Facilitator of the trainings and she has a lot of experience in this field. She worked and still does with the Educare Foundation, they are based in Los Angeles and they offer three days seminars called ACE, standing for Achievement and Commitment to Excellence. "We carry out that program here, it is intense but has very good satisfaction rates. We did it in 2012 for 100 youth leaders in Aruba, like members of Parlamento Hubenil, Circle K and so on. From 2014 to 2017 it was repeated under the program 'Their Future, Our Duty', focusing on drop-out prevention for underprivileged youngsters. The



program was an initiative from Cooperating Funds of The Netherlands and they carried it out within the Caribbean part of the Dutch Kingdom. We as foundation operated for Aruba. Under that umbrella we gave the ACE program. The absenteeism dropped and it really was affective.

We Take Care

There is a group of youngsters that always look for the foundation and have become volunteer leaders themselves. Kayla: "They feel it works for them. We also recruit youth leaders in schools and we recently started a youth platform called Aruba Youth Impact where youngsters can share their ideas and concerns and actually act upon them. That is how we get this group more involved. It is a mix of youngsters of all levels, with all kind of problems or none at all. They just feel comfortable with us as we are a family here. We take care of them."

Future Plans

"Young people are walking around with a lot of baggage and sometimes parents and teachers do their best but it is not enough. We want to continue working with underprivileged youngsters in individual and group sessions and strengthening them. And we have our youth platform that is establishing firmly, organizing also the Impact Café that is based on the World Café model where you bring youngsters together and discuss topics", says Kayla. ❑



If you would like to visit the foundation, please call + (297) 584 1211 and ask for Kayla Rojas. For more information visit their Facebook: Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation. Thank You!

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Bushiribana Gold Mine



Bushiribana Gold Mine is one of the most visited ruines on the island. The gold rush started officially when a twelve year old Aruban boy Willem Rasmijn encountered this precious metal. Have been said that 3 million pounds of pure gold were produced during the gold rush period that ended during worldwar 1 in 1916. Gold can still be seen sparkling inside the Bushiribana Gold mine in a very secret location.

Natural Bridge at Black Stone beach



Probably you don't know but here in Aruba we have more than 10 natural bridges. One of them is at Black Stone Beach in the Arikok National Park. This beach is totally different from all other beaches on Aruba. Famous for its black round lava stones and gives a very unique refection when you're under the bridge. Some locals call this beach "tres wowo" (3 eyes) because there are 3 natural bridges at this beach. To visit this beach you must first go to Ayo Rock formation and take the road to Andicuri Beach and its necessary to have a 4by4 ta cross Andicuri and continue along the coastline to Black Stone Beach.

Plane spotting at Surfside Beach



Aviation enthusiasts have been watching airplanes ever since they were invented. Surfside is the best beach to have a great day at the beach while enjoying this hobby. The beach is on your right hand while going from Downtown to the airport. There are many trees to cool you off from the sun when needed. On weekends and national holydays you will find local families camping at this awesome beach.

Age is just a number



As a photographer my job is to get the best image possible that will last forever and I love to see couples go the extra mile during a photo shoot. So when you're going to take a shot think about the extra mile, what can you do to make it a memorable photography Your kids and grandkids will love to see those kinds of pictures of your vacation here in Aruba and these are Instagram ready shots.



Honoring at Aruba Beach Club

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.



The honorees are Mr. Jesse & Mrs. Barbara Formus from Monroe New York
The honorees stated that they love the beautiful weather, the people of Aruba and the amazing sunsets very much.

De Cuba together with representatives of Aruba Beach Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years.❑



Space and Nature Foundation Aruba officially established

ORANJESTAD — On November 20th of 2018 the Space and Nature Aruba Foundation (SNAF) has been officially inaugurated with a symbolic act and a presentation of a lecture given by Professor Sandra Faber at the University of Aruba.



The Governor of Aruba Alfonso Boekhoudt, was the honorary guests of the night. The Governor pushed the button and initiated a video produced by SNAF and with the symbolic act the foundation was established. Also present at the ceremony was the Minister of Education Armando Lampe.

After the symbolic act the president of the Space and Nature Aruba Foundation explained how the idea came to life for the foundation. He said that since he was young he took part in a science club and continued with this as a hobby. In the long run, he came across others with the same ideals as him. They decided to share all their knowledge and experiences with the entire community. Their passion for it is what urged them to buy their own telescopes and they have been organizing several activities throughout the years, in which people can observe the stars and the planets and also doing some nature walks. They also gave workshops and lectures.

The board of directors is people of different backgrounds yet each and every one of them contributes in a unique way. The board members are as follows;

Mr. Jairo Vrolijk, Vice President, is an electrical engineer. He is the specialist of astrophotography.



Mr. Darryl Everon, Secretary, he is a systems engineer and he is the technician of the telescopes.

Mrs. Silveika Maduro-Willems, is the treasurer and a teacher.

Mrs. Aischell Hidalgo is the second treasurer; she is an "assistant auditor".

These 2 ladies are responsible for all the activities.

Mr. Lisandro Arends is a member of the board and is a weather observer. He gives advice regarding the weather and is an 'Earth Science' specialist.

Mr. Francisco Croes is also a member of the board and general advisor. Croes is a retired physics teacher.

Mr. Jeremio Maduro, president, he is a science teacher in charge of the educational material for the foundation.

The foundation is honored to have Professor Sandra Faber giving the first lecture during its launch. Faber is an astronomer. She is a professor at the University of California and member of the Lick Observatory. Her lecture was about 'Astro-imaging: past, present and future.

The dean of 'Faculty of Arts & Science' at the University of Aruba Tim Croes gave also a small lecture and showed his gratitude towards the foundation for all they have been doing and together with Center for Lifelong Learning they've created this platform.

SNAF would like to thank everyone that was part of this special night. Don't forget to like and share and follow them on Facebook-spaceandnaturearuba-foundation to stay updated of all their activities.❑

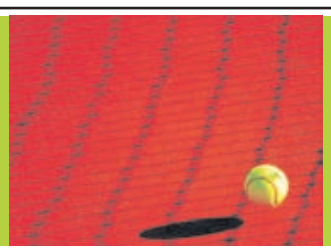




Pictures are courtesy of Jean-Carlos Maduro and Francisco Croes, members di SNAF



SPORTS




In this Dec. 9, 2018, file photo, Oakland Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie stands on the field before an NFL football game between the Raiders and the Pittsburgh Steelers in Oakland, Calif.
Associated Press

Raiders fire GM Reggie McKenzie

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — From the moment Jon Gruden was brought back for a second stint as coach of the Oakland Raiders with a 10-year contract, general manager Reggie McKenzie's longevity in the position was in serious doubt.

That only eroded more with each departure of one of McKenzie's prized former draft picks and ended when he was fired Monday, less than two years after he was named the NFL's executive of the year.

With the Raiders unable to build off that breakthrough 12-win season in 2016 and McKenzie's recent drafts failing to generate many impact players, the move to cut ties with McKenzie was made after Oakland beat Pittsburgh 24-21 for its third win of the season.

Continued on Page 21



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper (19) celebrates his touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles in overtime of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.
Associated Press

ARUBA TODAY

Report: USOC and others delayed in response to Nassar

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

DENVER (AP) — An independent report details a toxic pattern of bureaucratic paralysis among Olympic leaders who reacted slowly, if at all, after they knew Larry Nassar was suspected of molesting young gymnasts.

From the top office at the U.S. Olympic Committee to FBI bureaus in three cities to what was essentially an unchecked, rogue operation at the Karolyi Ranch in Texas, nobody stepped in quickly enough to stifle Nassar's crimes, the report concludes .

That delay ultimately gave Nassar more than a full year to abuse athletes after the first allegations surfaced.

The USOC swiftly fired sports performance chief Alan Ashley in the wake of Monday's release of the 233-page report from the law firm Ropes & Gray. One of its conclusions was that neither Ashley nor Scott Blackmun, who resigned in February as CEO of the USOC, elevated concerns about alleged abuse when they first learned of them from USA Gymnastics president Steve Penny in July 2015.

And an email from Penny notifying Blackmun and Ashley of Nassar's decision to step down from his volunteer position at USAG in September 2015 — after allegations had surfaced but before they'd become widely known — was deleted from both executives' accounts. The report suggests Blackmun was fearful his email system may have been vulnerable to Russian hacking.



In this Oct. 1, 2013, file photo, Alan Ashley, chief of sport performance with the U.S. Olympic Committee, speaks with reporters during a news conference in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

"One thing we've learned from this experience is that these types of situations should be escalated," said Susanne Lyons, a board member who served as acting CEO earlier this year. "Transparency is important."

The report says the USOC, USAG, Michigan State and the FBI all failed to protect athletes. The failures led to a 14-month period — July 2015 to September 2016 — during which Nassar, while still employed at Michigan State, continued to molest young women. Nassar is serving decades in prison on charges of child pornography and for molesting young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment; many of his accusers testified in heart-wrenching detail at his sentencing hearing in January.

The USOC commissioned the report shortly after the testimony. More than 100 people were interviewed, including some survivors of sexual abuse. But a sizable number of Nassar victims — including 180 being represented by attorney John Manly — refused to participate because Manly didn't believe the report was completely independent of the USOC.

"That being said, it is a stinging indictment of the highest levels of the leadership of the United States Olympic Committee for their role in the cover-up (of) the largest sex-abuse scandal in the history of sports," Manly said.

Among the conclusions:

— Blackmun didn't report the allegations to either the USOC board or anyone on his staff. When asked about the Nassar case by chief security officer Larry Buendorf, who had received word separately from Penny, Blackmun told Buendorf he was aware of the issue but did not seek further guidance. Blackmun, who voluntarily answered questions for the report, explained he understood the seriousness of the Nassar allegations but because they involved an "insider" — Nassar was well-respected and had worked with USAG for nearly 30 years — the case was "especially sensitive." ❑

Raptors go west, Kawhi back to Oracle where so much changed

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

So much changed after Kawhi Leonard crashed to the Oracle Arena floor on May 14, 2017.

The San Antonio Spurs had a 23-point lead on the Warriors in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals when Leonard departed with 26 points, poised to take away home-court advantage in the series between teams who won more than 60 games.

Leonard injured his ankle when he landed on Zaza Pachulia's foot after taking a jump shot, and things were never the same again for the Spurs or Leonard. The Spurs couldn't hold on to win that game or any other in the series without their All-Star forward, whose ankle injury would be followed by a lingering thigh injury that would limit him to just nine games the following season and strain relations between the team and player. Leonard was ultimately granted his desire to leave San Antonio when he was traded to Toronto in the offseason.



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) looks to shoot as Milwaukee Bucks center Brook Lopez (11) and forward Khris Middleton (22) defend during first-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

If Leonard doesn't go down, maybe the Spurs win that game, maybe the series and maybe another championship. Maybe Leonard wouldn't have wanted to leave.

"Regardless of the fact, would've, could've, should've, we're here now," said Danny Green, who was traded to Toronto with Leonard. "And obviously it would have been nice if things went differently then and we would have continued to play and maybe had something special happen then, but we're here now so we want to try to make some good things happen now."

Leonard is set to play at Oracle Arena for the first time since his injury on Wednesday, again looking like the player whose team might be the biggest threat to the Warriors.

It's a rematch of perhaps the game of the season and another potential NBA Finals preview. Leonard scored 37 points on Nov. 29 in Toronto, when the Raptors overcame a season-high 51 points from Kevin Durant to win 131-128 in overtime. Toronto has the NBA's best record, but this time would have to beat the Warriors with Stephen Curry and Draymond Green, who were injured in the first matchup.

Leonard dealt with injuries for a long time, but he appears just about back to where he was at his peak. Coach Nick Nurse has noticed how Leonard is jumping higher on his dunks and not coming up short on his 3-pointers, and the Raptors are close to eliminating all the minutes restrictions that were in place when the season started.❑



This image provided by Sports Illustrated shows the cover of the Dec. 17-24, 2018, issue featuring the Sportsperson of the Year, the Golden State Warriors NBA basketball team.
Associated Press

Warriors named Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of Year

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

The three-time NBA champion Golden State Warriors are the fourth team to be honored as Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year .

The Warriors join the 1980 U.S. hockey team, the 1999 U.S. Women's World Cup soccer squad and the 2004 Boston Red Sox as the other team honorees.

Sports Illustrated announced the winner Monday, and editor-in-chief Chris Stone said they have been thinking of some way to honor the Warriors during their run of three titles in four years. He also acknowledged that there were a couple years where Steph Curry has been in the conversation.

"There is something transcendent about the team where the sum of their parts was apparent from the beginning," Stone said. "What they have built into a dynasty is a function of empirical success. They're really a generational team. I don't know if, in my lifetime, there has been a team where the pieces have blended so beautifully together."

Stone also said that the Warriors' honor is more about the celebration of the organization doing something unique over an extended period while the other teams were honored for what they did in a certain year.

Alexander Ovechkin, who led the Washington Capitals to their first Stanley Cup title, Tiger Woods and LeBron James also received consideration, but Stone said the Warriors felt like the favorite when they repeated as NBA champions.

"In the same way they play, they seem to speak in a single voice," Stone said. "The unity of message with the Warriors is the same way we refer to LeBron and his answering some of the hard questions. They did it forcefully, but also civilly, in a way that helps advance conversations."❑



Milwaukee Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe (6) drives to the net as Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) attempts to defend during first half NBA basketball action in Toronto on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.
Associated Press

Brogdon's 3-pointers lift Bucks past Raptors 104-99

By The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Malcolm Brogdon hit tying and go-ahead 3-pointers in the final 67 seconds and the Milwaukee Bucks held on to beat the Toronto Raptors 104-99 on Sunday night.

Brogdon scored 18 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 19 points and matched a season high with 19 rebounds, and Brook Lopez had 19 points for the Bucks, the first team to beat Toronto twice this season.

Serge Ibaka scored 22 points and Kawhi Leonard had 20 for the Raptors, who have lost two straight, the second time this season they've suffered consecutive defeats. Toronto, which lost 106-105 at Brooklyn on Friday, dropped three straight from Nov. 12 to 16, losing at home to New Orleans and Detroit before an overtime defeat at Boston.

Fred VanVleet scored 19 points and Pascal Siakam had 17 for the Raptors, whose 21-7 record is best in the NBA.

Toronto's Kyle Lowry shot 0 for 5 and didn't score for the first time this season. Lowry led the Raptors with seven assists.

PELICANS 116, PISTONS 108

DETROIT (AP) — Jrue Holiday scored 37 points and Julius Randle added 28 as New Orleans dealt Detroit its fourth straight loss.

Pelicans star Anthony Davis left with a right hip injury after a first-quarter collision with Blake Griffin. Davis returned early in the third quarter, but finished with only six points — three before the injury. He also had five blocks and nine rebounds.Griffin scored 35 points for Detroit, Andre Drummond had 23 points and 19 rebounds, and Langston Galloway added a season-best 24 off the bench.

SPURS 110, JAZZ 97

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had 26 points and eight rebounds and Rudy Gay added 23 points and 15 rebounds as San Antonio won its second straight after dropping four of five.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 20 points for the Spurs.

Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points, all in the second half, and Ricky Rubio added 26 for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert was the only other player in double figures, with 12 points, as Utah had its two-game winning streak halted.

HORNETS 119, KNICKS 107

NEW YORK (AP) — Kemba Walker scored 25 points and Jeremy Lamb added 19 to lead Charlotte past New York.

Tony Parker scored 16 points, Marvin Williams had 13 and Cody Zeller finished with 12 as Charlotte led by as many as 28 points in a game it never trailed.

Knicks rookie Kevin Knox tied a season high with 26 points and set a career high with 15 rebounds, while Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points.❑

Dolphins pull off miracle play to beat Patriots 34-33

By The Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Kenyan Drake ran the last 52 yards as the Miami Dolphins scored on a pass and double lateral on the wild 69-yard final play Sunday to beat the New England Patriots 34-33.

It was the longest touchdown to win a game with no time remaining since the 1970 merger.

The Patriots were 16 seconds from clinching their 10th consecutive AFC East title when the Dolphins pulled off their stunner. Ryan Tannehill threw a 14-yard pass to Kenny Stills, who lateraled to DeVante Parker, who quickly lateraled to Drake . He found a seam and beat two Patriots to the corner of the end zone — defensive back J.C. Jackson and tight end Rob Gronkowski, who was on the field as part of New England's prevent defense. The Dolphins' bench emptied as teammates mobbed Drake. Coach Adam Gase said his team had been practicing the play all year for such a situation. "Those guys executed it as well as you could," Gase said. "When you practice it, you don't really know how it's going to turn out. Kenyan realized he had a lane and took it."

Tom Brady threw for 358 yards and three scores, but the stunned Patriots (9-4) lost in Miami for the fifth time in their past six visits. The Dolphins (7-6) came from behind five times to help their slim wild-card chances.

The Patriots' Stephen Gostkowski missed an extra point for the first time in 38 tries this season early in the game, and he also missed a 42-yard field goal try. But his 32-yarder to cap a 55-yard drive put the Patriots ahead 30-28 with 6:45 left.

Coach Bill Belichick opted to have Gostkowski kick a 22-yarder in the closing seconds rather than pin the Dolphins near their goal line. Instead, they returned the ensuing kickoff to the 31 — and on the next play pulled off a miracle.

CHIEFS 27, RAVENS 24, OT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Harrison Butker atoned for a 43-yard miss as time expired with a 36-yard field goal in overtime, and the Chiefs stopped the Ravens on fourth down to clinch a playoff spot.

The Chiefs (10-2) twice converted on fourth down before Patrick Mahomes threw a tying touchdown pass to Damien Williams with 53 seconds left. Moments later, Justin Houston strip-sacked Lamar Jackson to give Butker a chance to win the game for Kansas City in regulation.

He missed that one. He didn't miss his second chance. The Ravens (7-6) marched across midfield as they tried to answer in overtime, but Ronnie Stanley's holding penalty put them in a bind. Jackson was sacked by Houston and Dee Ford — and wound up leaving the game — and Robert Griffin III threw two incompletions to end it.

Mahomes threw for 377 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. Tyreek Hill caught eight passes for 139 yards, including three in overtime to set up the eventual winning field goal. Jackson threw for 147 yards and two touchdowns for the Ravens, who had never lost in three trips to Arrowhead Stadium. Jackson also had 71 yards rushing in his fourth start in place of Joe Flacco.



Chicago Bears safety Eddie Jackson (39) intercepts a pass intended for Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Josh Reynolds (83) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, in Chicago.

Associated Press

SAINTS 28, BUCCANEERS 14

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Drew Brees threw for one touchdown and ran another to help the Saints rally from an 11-point halftime deficit to clinch their second straight NFC South title.

Brees shrugged off a pair of turnovers to throw a 1-yard TD pass to Zach Line, then scored on a 1-yard sneak as the Saints (11-2) avenged a season-opening loss to the Bucs (5-8) and also rebounded from a defeat last week at Dallas.

New Orleans' defense did its part after allowing two first-half TDs, too, sacking Jameis Winston four times and limiting the NFL's No. 1-ranked offense to 81 yards in the second half — most of that on the final drive. Brees completed 24 of 31 passes for 201 yards and one interception. Michael Thomas had 11 receptions for 98 yards.

Winston threw a pair of TD passes to Cameron Brate, the latter a 1-yarder set up by Adarius Taylor's interception to put the Bucs up 14-3 at halftime. The fourth-year pro also threw an 11-yarder to Brate on the opening drive of the game.

BEARS 15, RAMS 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Eddie Goldman led a dominant defensive effort, and Chicago shut down Jared Goff and Los Angeles' high-powered offense.

The Rams (11-2) missed a chance to secure a first-round playoff bye and fell into a tie with New Orleans for home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. Goff threw a career-high four interceptions and was sacked three times, with Goldman getting to him for a tiebreaking safety early in the third quarter.

Bradley Sowell became the first Bears offensive lineman in 11 years with a touchdown reception when he caught a 2-yarder from Mitchell Trubisky in the third quarter.

Chicago improved to 9-4.

COWBOYS 29, EAGLES 23, OT

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott threw his third touchdown pass to Amari Cooper on the first possession of overtime, and the Cowboys took a big step toward the NFC East title.

On third down, Rasul Douglas tipped the pass into the air, and Cooper grabbed it and had a clear path to the end zone from the Philadelphia 7. The Cowboys used almost all of the 10-minute overtime, scoring with 1:55 remaining.

By winning the third overtime game in the past four seasons at A&T Stadium between these division rivals, the Cowboys (8-5) won their fifth straight game and took a two-game lead over the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (6-7) and Washington.

The Cowboys finished with 576 yards, their most since gaining 578 against the St. Louis Cardinals in 1973.

Dallas can clinch the NFC East title with a win at Indianapolis next Sunday.

Carson Wentz threw for three touchdowns, including a pair of tying scores in the fourth quarter. But he never got a chance in overtime because of the 13-play, 75-yard drive engineered by Prescott.

RAIDERS 23, STEELERS 21

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Derek Carr threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Derek Carrier with 21 seconds left before Chris Boswell slipped on a potential game-tying 40-yard field goal attempt on the final play.

Ben Roethlisberger returned from a rib injury to lead a go-ahead touchdown drive that Carr answered for the Raiders (3-10). Big Ben then connected on a 48-yard hook-and-lateral pass play that put Boswell in position for the tying kick. But he lost his footing and sent the kick into the line, sending the Steelers (7-5-1) to their third straight loss.

Carr threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes for the Raiders, leading his 16th career fourth-quarter comeback. He threw for 322 yards, including a 3-yard TD that put Oakland up 17-14 with 5:20 to play.

Roethlisberger then returned after missing the first four drives of the second half and drove the Steelers to the go-ahead score on a 1-yard pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster before once again ending up on the losing end in a trip to Oakland. He is 0-4 at the Coliseum and the Raiders remain the only AFC opponent he has never beaten on the road.❑

Eovaldi wanted to remain in Red Sox rotation, not relieve

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nathan Eovaldi loved what he started in Boston — emphasis on started.

"There were a lot of teams that reached out, wanted me to be a closer," he said. "I view myself as a starter, and that's something I've always done my entire career. And I enjoy doing that. So if I had that choice, I still wanted to be a starter."

After shifting to the bullpen for three World Series relief appearances, including an epic 97-pitch outing in an 18-inning loss , Eovaldi decided last week to stay with the Red Sox for a $68 million, four-year contract .

"I can't wait to see him again with us. He's going to be a huge part of this rotation," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said Monday during a winter meetings news conference. "He's a workaholic."

Eovaldi averaged nearly 98 mph with his fastball during the regular season but reached 100 mph six times in the first two games against the Los Angeles Dodgers, not needing to hold back. That velocity intrigued teams as he became a free agent.



Boston Red Sox pitcher Nathan Eovaldi attends the Major League Baseball winter meetings, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Before October, Eovaldi's career was most notable for a pair of Tommy John surgeries. Acquired from Tampa Bay in July , the 28-year-old right-hander beat the New York Yankees in Game 3 of the Division Series, then defeated Houston in the third game of the League Championship Series and got four outs as a bridge to closer Craig Kimbrel in the Game 5 finale.

Transformed to a setup man, Eovaldi twice pitched perfect eighth innings as Boston took a 2-0 World Series lead against the Dodgers.

He entered Game 3 at the start of the 12th inning, Boston's ninth pitcher of the game. Ace Chris Sale and Drew Pomeranz were the only remaining arms available.

Eovaldi kept going, allowing Yasiel Puig's tying single in the 13th and Max Muncy's leading home run in the 18th, which gave the Dodgers a 3-2 win. Eovaldi's effort became an emotional rallying point for the Red Sox, who won the next two nights for their fourth title in 15 seasons.

"The conversations in between innings, they were cool," Cora said. "I remember the last one, when I asked him: How are you feeling? He said, 'Let me finish it.' He said it with a lot of conviction. I knew he was good."

Cora also remembered Eovaldi's arrival at the Dodger Stadium breakfast room the next day.

"He said he was ready for it that night — not that I was going to use him, of course. I'm not that stupid," Cora said.

Boston's projected rotation includes Sale, David Price, Rick Porcello, Eovaldi and Eduardo Rodriguez. Sale and Porcello can become free agents after next season.

"It's going to be a juggling act over the next several of years," Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said. "We know we're not going to be able to sign everybody, but the more stability that's out there, the better off we are."❑

Reggie McKenzie

Continued from Page 17

McKenzie's influence with the Raiders had waned ever since the triumphant news conference to welcome Gruden back to Oakland in January. Gruden got rid of several of the players McKenzie had acquired, most notably edge rusher Khalil Mack and receiver Amari Cooper.

"I'm not going to sit up here today and talk about any disconnect," Gruden said. "We were connected. We were very good friends and very connected. I'll leave it at that."

Gruden said owner Mark Davis informed McKenzie of the move and the Raiders only issued a brief statement thanking McKenzie for his time in Oakland and wishing him well.

"We won a game last night and I went home," Gruden said. "Obviously, there was a meeting last night and changes have been made. I respect everything that this organization is about. I can't exactly answer why the change was made last night, but changes were made, and we got to continue to fight and continue to build this team back and that's what we are going to do."

Director of college scouting Shawn Herock will handle the GM duties during the search process.

McKenzie was the first major hire made by Davis after he took over the team following the death of his father, Al, in 2011. McKenzie modernized the franchise, got the team out of salary cap purgatory, and built a roster that went 12-4 under coach Jack Del Rio in 2016, earning him honors as the league's top executive.



In this Jan. 9, 2018, file photo, Oakland Raiders new head coach Jon Gruden, center, poses for photographs next to owner Mark Davis, left, and general manager Reggie McKenzie during an NFL football press conference in Alameda, Calif.

Associated Press

But the Raiders slumped to a 6-10 record last season, leading Davis to fire Del Rio and get Gruden to take the hefty contract after years of courting. Gruden set out to overhaul the roster, trading away and cutting many of McKenzie's former draft picks. That accelerated a week before the start of the season when Mack was dealt to Chicago for a package including two first-round picks and then Cooper was dealt in October to Dallas for another first-round pick.

With those deals, only nine players drafted by McKenzie from 2012 to 2017 remain on the active roster.

Despite all that, McKenzie downplayed any rift in the relationship that dated back to the 1990s when both worked together in Green Bay. "Gruden and I, we work together very well," McKenzie said after the Cooper trade. "Let's get no mistakes about him pushing me out. That's not happening. Me not being able to work with Gruden? That's furthest from the truth. OK?"

The highlight of McKenzie's tenure came in the 2014 draft, when he put together the nucleus of Oakland's only playoff team since going to the Super Bowl following the 2002 campaign. ❑

Jets get 3 on power play, rout Flyers 7-1

By The Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Josh Morrissey scored one of Winnipeg's three power-play goals and the Jets got goals from seven players while routing the Philadelphia Flyers 7-1 on Sunday.

Kyle Connor, Brandon Tanev, Dustin Byfuglien, Blake Wheeler, Bryan Little and Tyler Myers also scored for Winnipeg (18-9-2).

Mark Scheifele assisted on all three of Winnipeg's second-period goals, and Nikolaj Ehlers and Patrik Laine each had two assists. Jakub Voracek scored his eighth goal for the Flyers (12-13-3).

The Jets' power play was 3 for 6, while the Flyers went 0 for 2.

Connor Hellebuyck made 36 saves for Winnipeg.



Winnipeg Jets' goaltender Connor Hellebuyck (37) watches as Philadelphia Flyers' Nolan Patrick (19) settles the puck during first period NHL hockey action in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

BRUINS 2, SENATORS 1, OT

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Torey Krug scored 3:07 into overtime and Boston beat Ottawa.

Krug took a cross-crease pass from David Krejci and beat goalie Mike McKenna with a one-timer.

Brad Marchand had the regulation goal for the Bruins (16-10-4), and Tuukka Rask made 27 saves.

Mark Stone scored in regulation for the Senators (13-14-4), who got a 42-save performance from McKenna, including a diving two-pad stack save against Sean Kuraly in overtime.

CANADIENS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Tomas Tatar scored the tiebreaking goal on a deflection with 1:17 left in the third period and Montreal beat Chicago for its third straight win.

Max Domi and Shea Weber scored in the first period to give Montreal an early lead. Carey Price, starting for the seventh straight game and 11th in the last 12, stopped 37 shots.

Patrick Kane scored twice to tie the score for Chicago, which has lost seven straight and nine of its last 10. Corey Crawford finished with 25 saves.

The reeling Blackhawks fell to 3-11-2 under coach Jeremy Colliton, who replaced Joel Quenneville on Nov. 6.

CANUCKS 6, BLUES 1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Brock Boeser scored his second career hat trick, Elias Pettersson had a goal and four assists, and Vancouver beat St. Louis. Bo Horvat and Nikolay Goldobin also scored for the Canucks, who won consecutive games for the first time since winning three straight from Oct. 29 through Nov. 2. Vancouver was 2-10-2 in its previous 14 games.

Jacob Markstrom made 22 saves to improve to 10-9-3 on the season and 2-4-0 lifetime against St. Louis.

Jake Allen stopped three of six shots in 14:06 before being pulled in favor of Chad Johnson, who made 12 saves. Allen recorded his first shutout of the season Friday at Winnipeg.

DUCKS 6, DEVILS 5, SO

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Daniel Sprong and Ryan Getzlaf scored in the shootout to lead Anaheim.

Ducks goalie John Gibson blocked one New Jersey shot in the shootout and Taylor Hall's attempt bounced off the crossbar.

Jakob Silfverberg, Kiefer Sherwood, Brandon Montour, Pontus Aberg, Ondrej Kase scored in regulation for the Ducks, with three of the goals deflected off New Jersey players.

Anaheim's Ryan Miller, looking to become the all-time leader in U.S.-born goaltender wins, left the game with 12:47 left in the third period after a pair of players crashed into him at the net. He appeared to have injured his left leg. Miller stopped 23 of the 27 shots he faced. Gibson had seven saves through overtime. Kyle Palmieri had two goals for the Devils, and Damon Severson, Brent Seney and Marcus Johansson also scored. Cory Schneider stopped 33 shots.

OILERS 1, FLAMES 0

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Mikko Koskinen made 24 saves in his third shutout of the season and Connor McDavid scored the only goal to lead Edmonton.

The Oilers have won three straight and have gone 6-1-0 in their last seven games.

David Rittich made 29 saves for Calgary, which had a five-game winning streak snapped is 9-2-1 in the last 12 outings.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, STARS 2

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Alex Tuch got his 10th goal of the season and Vegas won its fifth straight at home.

Tuch became the fifth Golden Knights player to reach double figures in goals just before the end of the second period, when he chopped a loose puck just past defenseman Miro Heiskanen's skate and through goaltender Ben Bishop's five-hole to give the Golden Knights a 3-1 lead.

Ryan Carpenter, William Karlsson and Reilly Smith also scored to help Vegas improve to 10-3-1 at T-Mobile Arena. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 22 shots.

Martin Hanzal and Esa Lindell scored for Dallas, and Bishop made 24 saves. The Stars snapped a four-game winning streak.❑

Mikaela Shiffrin wins World Cup parallel slalom event

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin won a World Cup event for the third time in eight days, beating Petra Vlhova in the head-to-head final of parallel slalom on Sunday.

Shiffrin trailed midway down the course after clipping a gate, but led her Slovakian opponent through the final three gates to win by 0.11 seconds.

The American star's 48th career World Cup win — fourth on the women's all-time list — was her third straight after back-to-back victories in the super-G speed discipline Saturday at St. Moritz and last Sunday at Lake Louise, Canada.

"I'm not unbeatable, no," Shiffrin told Swiss broadcaster RTS after the race. "I was so excited after (Saturday's win) it was a bit of a challenge to refocus."

Still, Shiffrin does look unbeatable if she stays injury-free chasing a third straight season-long overall title. With 100 more World Cup points Sunday, she has more than double the total of her nearest rival, Michelle Gisin of Switzerland.

Shiffrin will skip the next World Cup meeting — a downhill and super-G at Val Gardena, Italy — to focus on her specialist slalom and giant slalom events on Dec. 21-22 at Courchevel, France. Vlhova advanced to the final in one of the tightest races, winning her semifinal by 0.02 from three-time Olympic medalist Wendy Holdener of Switzerland. Holdener took third place, winning the small final against Katharina Liensberger of Austria. ❑



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during a slalom qualifying run for a women's World Cup parallel event, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

Baines surprised by Hall of Fame election _ many others, too

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Harold Baines answered the phone and learned he was a Hall of Famer.

"Very shocked," he admitted.

So were many others around the baseball world.

In fact, in the hours after his selection by a Hall-picked panel was announced Sunday at the Mandalay Bay resort, a lot of conversations at the winter meetings started the exact same way: "Harold Baines?"

No one doubted Baines was a top player — a six-time All-Star with 1,628 RBIs, 384 home runs and 2,866 hits.

"I had a great career. I'm very proud of it," he said.

But a couple other numbers stood out, too.

Baines never drew more than 6.1 percent in five elections by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, far from the 75 percent required. In the key WAR stat compiled by baseballreference.com, Baines' lifetime total was tied for 545th.

Yes, 545th.

Behind the likes of Placido Polanco, Jim Sundberg and Rafael Furcal in wins above replacement, not to mention Gil Hodges, Dick Allen, Don Mattingly, John Olerud and dozens more.

The vote by the Today's Game Era Committee was sure to spark renewed cries of cronyism at Cooperstown. Especially because the 16-member panel appointed by the Hall board included longtime Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

"I'm glad he was on that committee this year to help to get into the Hall of Fame," Baines said.

Baines spent nearly all of his first 10 seasons with the White Sox and currently serves as a team ambassador in their community relations department.

"So happy for Harold. He's a great player and a great human being," Reinsdorf praised in a statement. "I am so honored that I was a member of the committee. He deserved to be in long ago. I am just so excited."

"Not only was Harold one of my favorite players to watch, but I have nothing but admiration for him as a player and as a human being," he said.

Tony La Russa, Baines' first big league manager, also was on the panel that elected him.

In the past, Phil Rizzuto and Bill Mazeroski were among



In this Saturday, July 6, 1996, file photo, Chicago White Sox's Harold Baines (3) watches his ninth inning solo home run head for the center field seats during the White Sox's 3-2 win over the Cleveland Indians in Cleveland.

Associated Press

the players who benefited from friendly faces on Veterans Committees to reach the Hall. That panel has been revamped over the years, and the Today's Game Era group was created as part of changes in 2014.

"The era committees were established as a sort of a court of appeals for an opportunity in the event that over time it was felt that maybe somebody slipped through the cracks," Hall President Jeff Idelson said. "And in the case of someone who received 6 percent of the vote in the BBWAA election, the reason that may have happened could be for many, many reasons."

It took 12 votes for election by the panel — longtime reliever Lee Smith was unanimous, Baines got 12 and former outfielder and manager Lou Piniella fell just short with 11.

George Steinbrenner, Orel Hershiser, Albert Belle, Joe Carter, Will Clark, Davey Johnson and Charlie Manuel all received fewer than five votes.

Baines, now 59, had a smooth, consistent, left-handed stroke. But he never finished higher than ninth in an MVP vote, and never was among the top five AL hitters in the yearly batting race. His single-season high was 29 home runs at a time when lots of players hit more.

As this vote approached, his name drew little-to-no buzz in debates over who might be selected.

"I wasn't expecting this day to come," the career .289 hitter said.

Baines became a designated hitter after knee trouble ended his days in the outfield, and DHs have struggled to gain backing from Hall voters.

"Everything I hear or read is DH is really not part of the game, I guess. But I disagree. But maybe this will the open up the doors for some more DHs," Baines said. Both closers and DHs could see the numbers increase again very shortly. Mariano Rivera is eligible for the first time and big-hitting DH Edgar Martinez will be back on the ballot when results of the next BBWAA election are announced Jan. 22.❑

Le Clos adds support to growing rebellion by top swimmers

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Four-time Olympic medalist Chad le Clos threw his support Monday behind a planned new competition that is leading top swimmers to rebel against their own governing body.

The International Swimming League, which aims to launch next year, "will benefit swimming with a new dynamic approach," Le Clos said. The ISL is privately owned and outside the control of Switzerland-based governing body FINA. It also aims to pay higher prize money and involve athletes more in making decisions.

"Why should athletes not shape their own series like so many other Olympic sports?" the 2012 Olympic champion in 200-meter butterfly wrote on Twitter .

In an escalating dispute, ISL organizers canceled a swim meet this month in Turin, Italy, after FINA threatened to ban those taking part. In response Friday, three swimmers — Hungarian great Katinka Hosszu, and American teammates Tom Shields and Michael Andrew — filed an anti-trust suit against FINA in a California court.

FINA allegedly asked for $50 million over 10 years to let the ISL operate, before organizers called off talks.

Le Clos said he is "so disappointed that our sport is not open to change" and that it needs innovation.

"We need to create different media and commercial opportunities," he said. "Everyone in swimming should consider the future." The South African star fueled the dispute ahead of competing in FINA's short-course world championships in Hangzhou, China.



In this Monday, April 19, 2018 file photo, Gold medalist from South Africa Chad Le Clos displays his medal after the men's 100m butterfly final at the Aquatic Centre during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia.

Associated Press

FINA said in a statement Sunday it was focused on its 25-meter pool event rather than the legal challenge.❑

ARUBA TODAY

Amazon touted as big win for NY, but math is more complex

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York officials tout their deal to land a new Amazon headquarters as can't-miss math. The city and state put up $2.8 billion in tax breaks and grants. In return, they get an economic engine expected to generate $27 billion in new tax money over a quarter-century.

"This is a big moneymaker for us. Costs us nothing," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said when the agreement was announced.

Experts say the economic equation isn't that simple.

The state's predicted 9-to-1 return on its investment was based on a widely used economic model that compares the costs of tax incentives with expected tax gains, but it didn't factor in the substantial costs of accommodating Amazon's growth in the city, economic development researchers said after reviewing the documents.

The city and state will have to spend money to educate the children of Amazon workers, improve public transportation to get them to work, collect their garbage, adjust police and fire coverage, and provide all sorts of other services for a growing number of people.

"Claiming 9-to-1 isn't just implausible. It is a dishonest way to present the return on these incentives," says Nathan Jensen, a University of Texas professor of government who has been critical of the way economic development incentives are used.

The reports also don't measure the Amazon "HQ2" project against any other possible development of its intended site in the booming Long Island City neighborhood.

Four academic and think tank researchers who weren't involved in the state's cost-benefit analyses said that while its methods were standard, its scope was limited.

"It's a standard cost-benefit approach, but it tends to talk a lot about the benefits and not a lot about the costs," said Megan Randall, a research analyst at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. "That's not to say that the costs will automatically override all the benefits ... (but) cities should be armed with that knowledge."

New York state's evaluation of the Amazon deal is based on an assumption that the company will ultimately create 40,000 relatively high-paying jobs in the city by 2034. That's the maximum number foreseen in a deal that starts with a promise of 25,000 jobs by 2028.

The state-commissioned analysis by Regional Economic Models Inc. also predicts Amazon's presence in the city will eventually create 67,000 other jobs outside the company, in industries from tech to real estate to restaurants that might serve Amazon workers.

Over 25 years, all those new jobs will generate about $14 billion in state income and sales taxes and about $13.5 billion in city taxes, according to that analysis and a city report also involving a REMI model.

Cuomo lauded that as "the highest rate of return for an economic incentive program that the state has ever offered."

REMI's analysis is deep and thorough, the state's economic development agency said.

"Their model is widely considered to be the gold standard for economic and fiscal impact analysis and has been recognized for its analytical depth, sophistication and flexibility," Adam Kilduff, a spokesman for Empire State Development, said in an emailed statement.

A representative of the city's economic development agency did not respond to questions about the analysis.

The analysis may be right about tax revenue, but "it's incomplete," said Timothy Bartik, a senior economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research and a leading expert on incentives. "You need to look at the spending side."

Opponents of the project have raised alarms about adding to the strain on subways, sewers and schools already struggling to keep up in the fastest-developing neighborhood in New York City.

Some improvements are already in the works. The Amazon agreement promises a new school and infrastructure upgrades. Critics, including some local politicians, are skeptical it will do enough.

They've held a series of rallies and protests and are exploring possible options to try to stop the project.

While voters in New York City support bringing Amazon's campus to the city, they are divided when it comes to the incentives from the city and state, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released Wednesday.

The survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points, found that 57 percent of city voters support Amazon's decision, while 26 oppose it. Forty-six percent of respondents support the incentives, however, compared with 44 percent who said they are opposed.

Beyond the costs of growth, the New York analyses also don't address some other questions, experts said.

David Merriman, a University of Illinois at Chicago public administration professor who specializes in tax issues, said it didn't consider the possibility of economic growth in Queens even if Amazon never came.

There were prior plans for big commercial and residential development on part of the potential Amazon site that have now been scuttled in favor of accommodating the company.

The state analysis also didn't examine whether New York could have bagged the same prize while offering less, as Virginia did to score an additional Amazon headquarters there.

"A proper analysis would take seriously that we are uncertain how much, exactly, was needed to attract HQ2 to New York," said UT's Jensen.

Amazon officials have said "the driving factor" in choosing New York and Virginia was the availability of enough tech talent, not the tax incentives.

"I honestly don't think that the main thing that people should be looking at is whether or not it makes money for the state government. That's not the purpose of state government," he said. "The bigger impact is if you create jobs that otherwise wouldn't be there."❑



In this Nov. 13, 2018, file photo, a sea gull flies off holding fish scraps near a former dock facility, with "Long Island" painted on old transfer bridges at Gantry State Park in the Long Island City section of the Queens Borough in New York.

Associated Press


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ARUBA HOMEMINDERS

Stocks slip on China-US tensions; oil resumes its slide

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks around the world are falling Monday morning, and U.S. indexes gave up modest early gains and turned lower, hurt by sharp drops for energy and financial companies.

The British pound is dropping after the U.K. prime minister postponed a vote on its departure from the European Union, and oil has resumed its sharp slide.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index lost 47 points, or 1.8 percent, to 2,585, as of 11 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 435 points, or 1.8 percent, to 23,904, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 73, or 1.1 percent, to 6,894.

U.S. indexes have been lurching up and down since October, mostly down, and the S&P 500 plunged 4.6 percent last week for its biggest loss in more than eight months, as investors felt the U.S. and China are still nowhere close to ending their trade dispute.

Volatility has been high not only week to week but also minute to minute. The S&P 500 zoomed from a gain of 0.2 percent to a loss of 1.8 percent Monday morning.

BREXIT PAUSE: British Prime Minister Theresa May postponed a vote on her deal for Britain to exit the European Union, which had been scheduled for Tuesday. She acknowledged that she would have lost the vote by a significant margin.



Anthony Matesic, a designated market maker, follows stock prices at the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.
Associated Press

HUAWEI ARREST: China raised the pressure over the weekend on the United States and Canada following the detention of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou. She is suspected of trying to evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran, and she was detained while changing planes in Canada.

China summoned both the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors to meetings over the weekend, where it protested the detention and called it "extremely egregious."

Meng's arrest has jolted the stock market, and investors fear it is adding to the tensions between the world's two largest economies.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 98 cents, or 1.8 percent, to $51.66 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 40 cents to $61.27 a barrel.

It's a resumption of the steep decline for crude's price that began in October. Last week, crude steadied after OPEC and other major oil producers said they will reduce production by 1.2 million barrels a day starting from January. The cuts will last for six months.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 fell 2.7 percent for the largest loss among the 11 sectors that make up the index.

OVERSEAS MARKETS: In Europe, Germany's DAX lost 1.2 percent, and the CAC 40 in France declined 1.1 percent.

Asian stocks were hurt by weak economic data from Japan and China. Revised data showed the Japanese economy shrank by 2.5 percent in the third quarter, a larger decline than analysts expected. Chinese imports and exports climbed at a much slower pace in November than they had in October.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 slid 2.1 percent, South Korea's Kospi fell 1.1 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.2 percent. BULKING UP: Nutrisystem surged 27.5 percent to $43.61 after Tivity Health agreed to buy it for $47 a share in cash and stock. That's a 37 percent premium from the weight loss company's closing price on Friday. Tivity stock dropped 32.7 percent to $27.32.

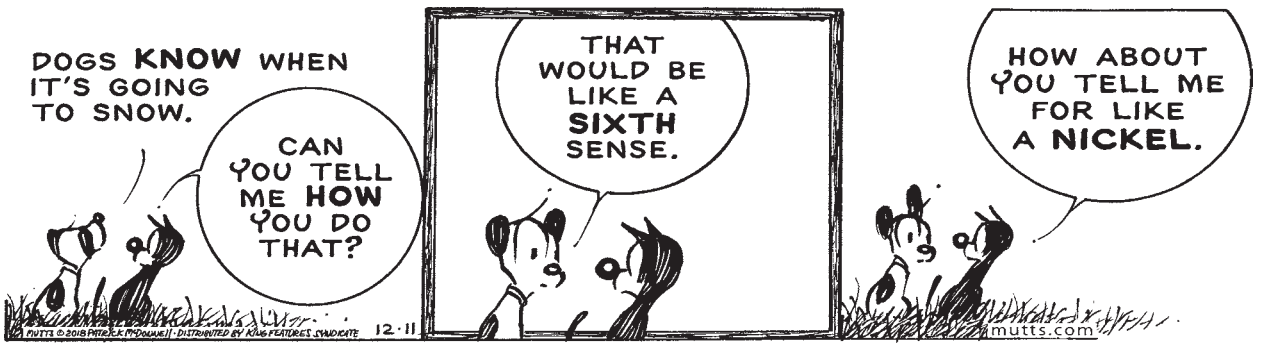
BAD REVIEWS: One of Yelp's biggest shareholders said it wants online reviews company Yelp to add new directors to its board. SQN Investors said the board hasn't held itself responsible for strategic mistakes and weak quarterly reports, and should add representatives for shareholders. The stock rose 2 percent to $35.27.

BONDS: The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.83 percent from 2.85 percent late Friday. The 30-year yield fell to 3.11 percent from 3.14 percent.❑

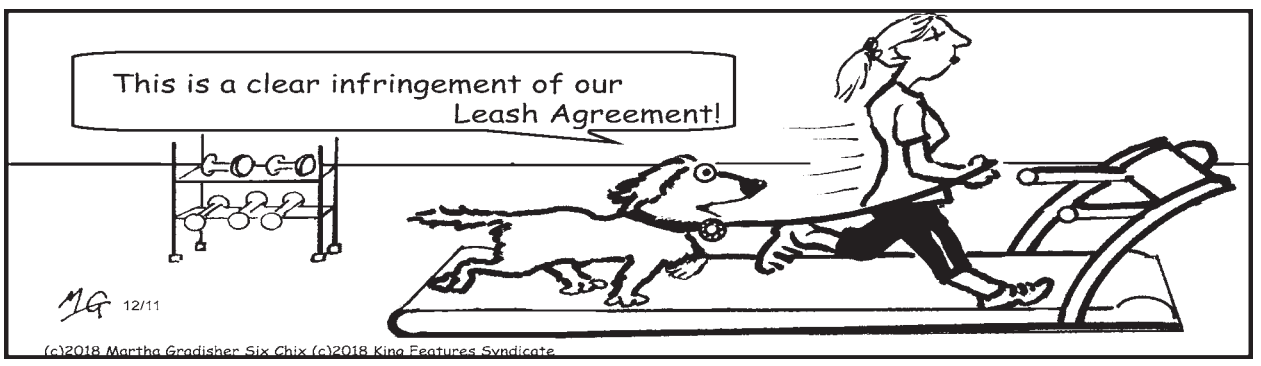
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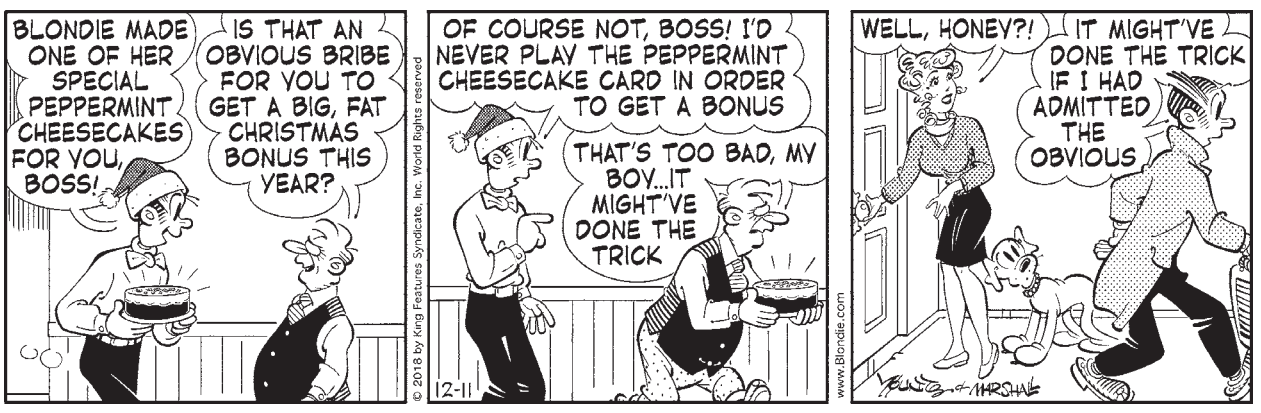
Mutts



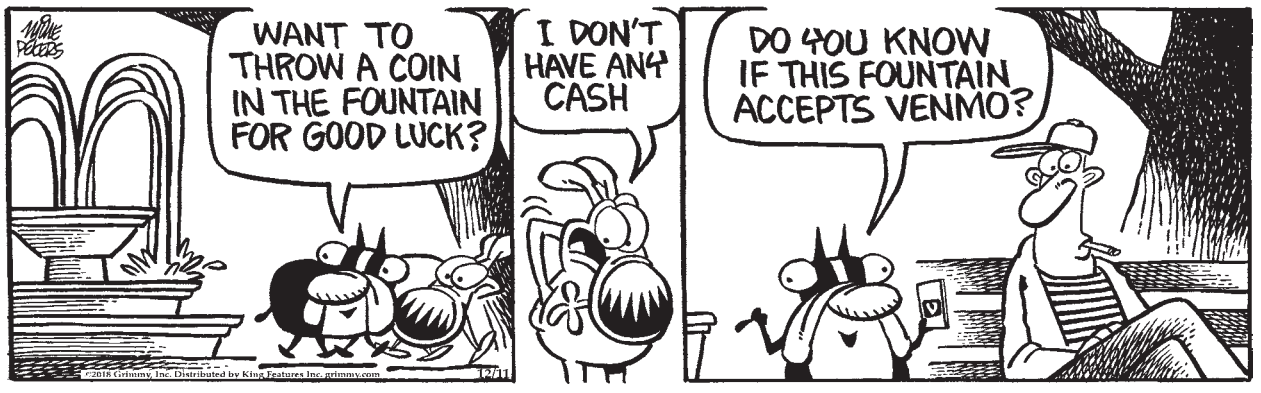
6 Chix



Blondie



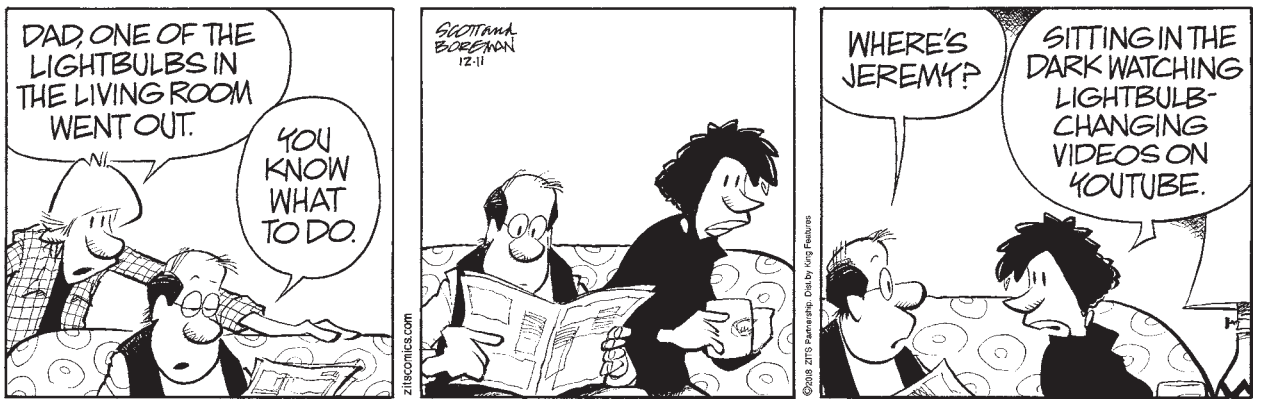
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7	8	6			
		2		5		4		
	5						8	
6			5		2			3
4	3						7	1
1			3		7			8
	8						5	
		6		7		3		
			9	2	3			

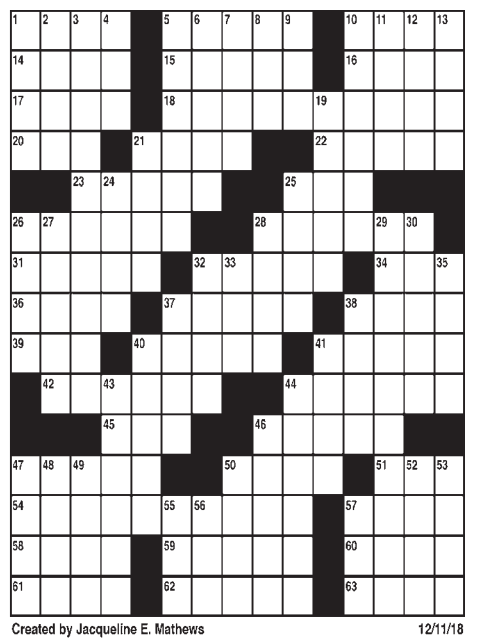
Difficulty Level ★★ 12/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	3	2	8	9	4	7	5	6
5	6	9	1	3	7	8	4	2
7	4	8	2	5	6	3	1	9
2	5	6	3	1	9	4	7	8
9	1	7	5	4	8	6	2	3
4	8	3	6	7	2	5	9	1
8	9	5	4	2	3	1	6	7
6	7	4	9	8	1	2	3	5
3	2	1	7	6	5	9	8	4



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/11/18

ACROSS

1 Buddy
5 __ at; deride
10 Fellow
14 "The Twilight __"
15 Excuse
16 Mount Fuji's output
17 Straight __ arrow
18 Inflammation of brain & spinal cord membranes
20 Gun the engine
21 Enjoy a long bath
22 City in England
23 Egyptian dam
25 Mad as a wet __
26 Taipei's island
28 Trusted counselor
31 Ease, as another's fears
32 Primp
34 Rollaway bed
36 Narrow opening
37 Thyroid or pituitary
38 Reminder of an old surgery
39 Relations
40 WA's Puget __
41 Terrify
42 Holiday drink
44 Cool dessert
45 Youth
46 Wynonna's mom
47 __ Allan Poe
50 Capital of the Cold War era's West Germany
51 "Son __ gun!"
54 Inexperienced beginner
57 Cabinet handle
58 Potter's need
59 Ascended
60 British noble
61 Punches
62 Overnight stop
63 Joy

DOWN

1 Russian leader of old
2 Rubber tube
3 To no effect; futile
4 Guys
5 Pago Pago resident
6 Spotless
7 Cry from the sty
8 "The __"; Efrem Zimbalist Jr. TV series
9 Swim __; diver's flipper
10 Customer
11 Detest
12 Gung ho
13 __ the buck; shift responsibility
19 Astronaut John __
21 Convince
24 Slap
25 Pay attention to
26 Chore
27 TV's "Kate & __"
28 Repair
29 Infrequent
30 Laughs loudly
32 Sink stopper
33 Galloped
35 Cypress or cedar
37 __ cholesterol; HDL
38 Bathtub ring
40 Catch in a trap
41 Before long
43 Knight, for one
44 Fireplace shelf
46 Loop with a slipknot
47 Engrave
48 Sandwich shop
49 Small fly
50 To __; also
52 Prefix for head or shadow
53 Capable
55 Crash into
56 To and __
57 Small barrel

Monday's Puzzle Solved

F	L	I	P			S	C	A	T		F	L	A	W
L	I	N	E	R		T	O	M	E		R	A	C	E
A	M	A	Z	E		A	B	A	N	D	O	N	E	D
N	O	D		J	A	G			A	R	N	E	S	S
		E	L	O	P	E			C	A	D			
A	C	Q	U	I	T			P	I	G	S	T	Y	
C	H	U	R	N		B	O	A	T	S		R	O	D
T	E	A	K		T	E	D	D	Y		B	I	D	E
S	A	T		B	O	N	D	S		S	E	V	E	N
	T	E	N	O	R	S			V	E	R	I	L	Y
			A	I	R			S	A	N	T	A		
S	P	O	U	S	E			A	L	I		L	O	B
C	O	N	G	E	N	I	A	L		O	P	I	N	E
A	R	C	H		T	O	G	A		R	A	Z	E	D
M	E	E	T		S	U	E	D			L	E	S	S

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12/11/18

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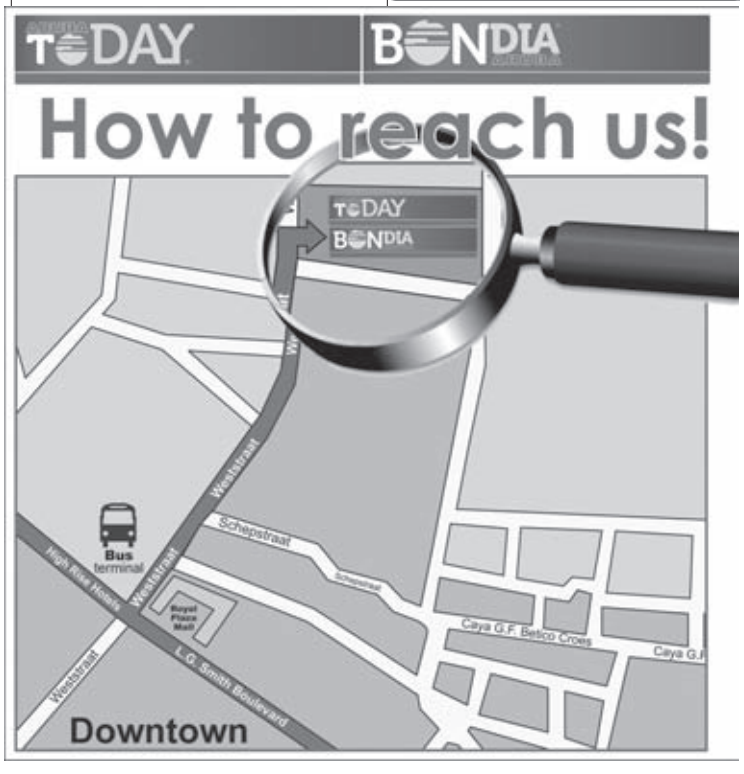
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25 week remain $6500 Each
1 BR WK 50 Room # 3208
Biulding C 17 weeks remain $6500

Divi Village
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25 weeks remain $12,000
1 BR WK # 1 Room # 5501
24 weeks remain $ 11,000

Divi Village
Studio WK # 52 Room # 6304
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Studio WK # 1 Room# 8201
23 weeks remain 8 acclerated $8000

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Dutch Village
Studio WK # 52 Room # 117
18 Weeks remain $ 7000

Divi Links Golf
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27 weeks remain $ 8000
1 BR WK # 1 and 2 Room # 2252
32 weeks Remain $10,000 each

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11 weeks remain $10,000

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ARUBA TODAY

Croak to croon: City frogs sing more alluring love songs

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — City frogs and rainforest frogs don't sing the same tune, researchers have found.

A study released Monday examined why Panama's tiny tungara frogs adapt their mating calls in urban areas — an unexpected example of how animals change communication strategies when cities encroach on forests.

These frogs take advantage of the relative absence of eavesdropping predators in cities to belt out longer love songs, which are more alluring to female frogs.

Tungara frogs don't croak like American bullfrogs. To human ears, their distinctive call sounds like a low-pitched, video-game beep.

To female frogs, it sounds like pillow talk.

Every evening at sunset, the 1-inch male brown frogs crawl into puddles to serenade prospective mates. The lady frog selects a mate largely based on his love song.

Researchers found that the urban frogs call faster, more frequently and add more embellishments — a series of staccato "chucks" on the end of the initial whine — compared with those in the forest.

Those fancy urban love songs are three times more likely to attract the ladies, as scientists learned by playing back recordings of both city and forest frog calls to an audience of female frogs in a laboratory. Thirty of 40 female frogs hopped over to the speaker playing the urban frog calls, the researchers report in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution.



In this undated photo provided by researchers in December 2018, a male tungara frog in Panama uses his vocal sac to call out in Gamboa, Panama.

Associated Press

Whether the female frogs hailed from the city or forest themselves, they showed the same preference for fast-paced, complex crooning that combines high and low tones in quick arrangements.

Study co-author Michael J. Ryan, a biologist at the University of Texas who has studied tungara frogs for more than 30 years, said that the high and low notes likely stimulated the inner and outer ear chambers of female frogs in a pleasurable or interesting way.

So why don't rainforest frogs sing the same way?

The scientists set out to confirm their hypothesis that frogs that added extra high-pitched "chucks" attracted not only more mates, but also more trouble from frog-eating bats and parasitic midges. With the help of camera traps and sticky paper, the researchers demonstrated that extended frog calls significantly increased the risk of attracting predators.

In the rainforest, the frogs must balance two goals: attracting a mate and staying safe.

In the city, there are no frog-eating bats, and far fewer snakes and midges. The male frogs are freer to belt their hearts out.

"An urban male can take greater risks," said lead author Wouter Halfwerk, an ecologist at Vrije University in Amsterdam.

A town frog also has to work harder to find a mate because lady frogs are rarer in the city.

"Competition for females increases," said Halfwerk. "The best adaptation is to be the most attractive, with an elaborate love song."

Corinne Lee Zawacki, a biologist at the University of Pittsburgh who was not involved in the study, said the researchers' methodology confirmed that urbanization is the reason for the call changes.

"I love the choice of study system," she said.

"A lot of background research has already been done on this frog. So we can see clearly how urbanization changes the interplay of natural and sexual selection" — or the trade-offs between survival and courtship goals.

But not all amphibians are as lucky as Panama's tungara frogs.

"Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, mostly due to habitat destruction," said Andrew Blaustein an ecologist at Oregon State University, who was not involved in the study.

"This is a rare case — and a very interesting case — of an animal adapting quickly, in evolutionary terms, to new circumstances."❑



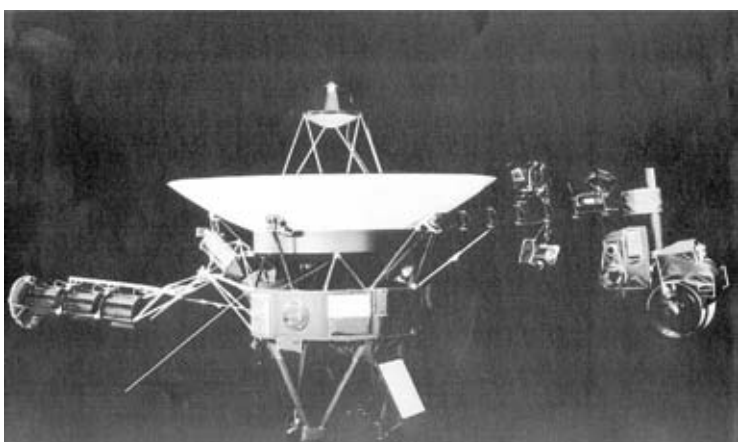
NASA's Voyager 2 becomes 2nd craft in interstellar space

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA's Voyager 2 is now the second human-made object to zip away from the sun into the space between the stars.

Voyager 2 last month exited "this bubble that the sun creates around itself," longtime NASA mission scientist Ed Stone said Monday. The spacecraft is now beyond the outer boundary of the heliosphere, some 11 billion miles (about 18 billion kilometers) from Earth.

It's trailing twin Voyager 1, which reached interstellar space in 2012 and is now 13 billion miles (21 billion kilometers) from Earth. Interstellar space is the vast mostly emptiness between star systems.



This is a handout photo from the Jet Propulsion Lab in Passadena, Calif., showing the Voyager spacecraft. NASA's Voyager 2 has become only the second human-made object to reach the space between stars.

Associated Press

Scientists know that Voyager 2 has left the sun's influence because of four different instruments that are measuring solar particles and different types of rays. They showed a dramatic change on Nov. 5, indicating the spacecraft was now in between the stars. One of the instruments measures solar plasma and this is the first time NASA saw a drop in that key instrument; the same instrument wasn't working on Voyager 1.❑

Cardi B, Pharrell, Kanye draw crowds during Art Basel Miami

By KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Royalty, Real Housewives and the fathers of two Kardashian babies were among the celebs that fanned out across Miami for a week of glamorous parties toasting the world's best artists during Art Basel.

Less than 24 hours after announcing she was splitting from her husband, Cardi B was spotted Wednesday night partying at 24/7 ultra-club E11EVEN MIAMI, sporting long, rainbow streaked hair and a skin-tight black dress. She grabbed the microphone and sang along when the DJ played her hits, including "Bodak Yellow" and "Drip," which features her ex, Offset.

G-Eazy and Travis Scott also gave separate performances at the all-night club over the weekend. Neither Kylie Jenner nor Kanye West were with Scott when he performed on top of the DJ booth and asked the crowd to put away their cell phones so they could enjoy the moment.

And at the private upstairs club at Casa Tua, Basel regular Leonardo DiCaprio hung out with U2's Bono at a late-night karaoke party where Paris Hilton and Serena Williams danced to Beyonce's "Formation."

Downstairs at the exclusive Italian restaurant, Princess Eugenie hosted an intimate seated dinner for the



In this Feb. 26, 2017, file photo, Pharrell Williams arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

London-based art gallery Hauser & Wirth where she serves as director.

On Thursday night, Jennifer Lopez was spotted getting cozy with boyfriend Alex Rodriguez at Prime 112 restaurant. And over at the former Versace Mansion, Creed 2 star Tessa Thompson hosted a party to announce the finalists of Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series' annual arts competition. Guests included BlacKkKlansman actress Laura Harrier, singer Teyana Taylor and former NBA champion Kevin Garnett. The girls did a quick photo shoot in Donatella Versace's former quarters.

Art Basel Miami Beach, the prestigious extension of the annual contemporary art fair in Basel, Switzerland, didn't officially open until Thursday, but the fair has become so popular that it's spawned dozens of others around Miami along with star-studded parties days in advance.

One of the biggest draws of the week was at the RC Cola Factory in Wynwood, where rappers Kanye West and Lil Wayne gave surprise performances to honor late rapper XXXTentacion for the posthumous release of his album Skin. Kanye brought down the house as he performed their new song "One Minute" with the late rapper who was gunned down in South Florida this year. Lil Wayne performed again at an intimate party for Republic Records at the Confidante Hotel, telling the crowd he hoped they were having so much fun during the over the top week of parties that they "don't make it back to where you're from because you just don't want to leave here."

On Saturday night, Pharrell teamed up with American Express Platinum for a private beachside concert at the swanky 1 Hotel South Beach.

One of the things he loves most about Art Basel is the way it brings "the curious youth here to see what it is you can do when you grow older if you continue to hone in on art in the way that you love it," he said. "I love being in an environment that fosters creativity." The "Happy" singer's new restaurant, Swan and Bar Bevy, proved to be one of the hottest reservations of the week. Kanye West dined there with Kim Kardashian's bestie Jonathan Cheban. Rocker Lenny Kravitz joined Pharrell one night and Leonardo DiCaprio and Bono were also seen enjoying a quiet dinner together.

In South Beach, music producer Swizz Beatz' No Commission was again a magnet for big name celebs. The two-day event with Bacardi featured performances by Meek Mill, Fat Joe and A$AP Ferg at night. By day, The Dean Collection gives artists free space to exhibit their work, along with a rare deal that gives 100 percent of sales directly to the artists as part of his No Commission theme. The art aficionado, who is married to Alicia Keys, has talked about his desire to promote starving artists. ❑

Aniston: Netflix 'Friends' deal a testament to show's value

By RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Aniston calls it "amazing" that "Friends" still has an audience big enough to prompt multi-million dollar business deals to keep it from disappearing on Netflix.

"I find it amazing that it's continued to have such love and such an audience and such an appetite for it," Aniston told The Associated Press Thursday at the premiere of her Netflix film "Dumplin'."



Jennifer Aniston attends the world premiere of "Dumplin'" at TCL Chinese Theatre on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

After an outcry from fans, Netflix announced earlier in the week that it was keeping the adventures of Ross, Rachel, Phoebe and Joey available to subscribers through 2019 — at a reported $100 million price tag to the streaming service.

"I think it says a lot about the show. Especially since it takes place at a time where it's so different from now. You know, people actually spoke to each other and hung out with each other and talked," Aniston said.

WarnerMedia owns the show, which aired on NBC for ten years ending in 2004. It won six Emmy Awards, including a best comedy actress Emmy for Aniston.

Netflix paid more than triple the $30 million a year it had been paying for "Friends," The New York Times reported earlier this week, citing two unidentified people with direct knowledge of the deal.

"Friends" could soon appear more places online. The Times said nothing in the Netflix deal prevented the show from appearing on a streaming service AT&T plans to launch in 2020.❑

Too much Spider-Man? Not in the Spider-Verse

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

You might be forgiven for feeling superhero overload this holiday season. Had enough of, say, of Spider-Man for a while? Well, this may sound nuts, but consider watching not just one web-slinger but five of them in the animated "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." Instead of overload, you'll be begging for more.

The film gleefully scrambles the notion there can be only one friendly neighborhood Spider-Man and offers the exciting idea that he can be anyone. He can be a girl, he can be a middle-aged dude with a paunch and he can even be a cartoon pig.

It's hard to underestimate what this means. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse " does what comics and graphic novels have long experimented with, but this time makes the leap to the big screen. It literally opens up a universe of possibilities. "Anyone can wear the mask. You can wear the mask," we are told.



This image released by Sony Pictures Animations shows a scene from "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

Associated Press

The result is a film that's fantastically fresh, both visually and narratively, trippy and post-modern at the same time and packed with intriguing storytelling tools, humor, empathy and action, while also true to its roots — still telling the story of a young man learning to accept the responsibility of fighting for what's right.

Our main hero here is one plucked from a spin-off from the main Spider-Man comic book universe: Miles Morales, a half-African-American, half-Puerto Rican teen from Brooklyn who has a Chance the Rapper poster on his wall. He looks and acts nothing like previous Peter Parker types — Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield and Tom Holland — and that's great. Hey, if Cate Blanchett can play Bob Dylan in a movie, why not offer us a new look on Spidey?

Produced by Phillip Lord and Christopher Miller, the duo behind the acclaimed "The Lego Movie," this Spider-Man saga pops with outstanding animation, constantly changing its styles. At times, it can be hyper-real, then surreal. It includes anime, slo-mo, color distortion, Pop art, hand-drawn elements, CG animation and even tweaks its own origins by adding dialogue in little panels.

The animators place their story in a wonderfully gritty New York, complete with screeching, graffiti-streaked subway cars and charmless pedestrians, (one of whom turns out to be voiced by Post Malone, who contributes to the soundtrack.) One quibble: Their ability to have things in the foreground appear in sharp relief while objects in the background bleed away makes it seem as if you're watching a 3D film without those weird glasses. Our hero Miles (Shameik Moore) is trying to navigate life between his cop dad (Brian Tyree Henry) and his cooler uncle (Mahershala Ali). After being bitten by a radioactive spider, he witnesses the death of Spider-Man (smaller viewers, beware).

But Miles soon learns there are many other Spider-People, freed from their realities by the hulking Kingpin (Liev Schreiber), who has built a nuclear collider that allows access to alternative universes.

"New Girl" star Jake Johnson voices a flabbier and depressed Peter Parker who wears sweat pants and is going through a divorce to Mary Jane. There's a fedora-wearing, black-and-white Spider-Man Noir (Nicolas Cage) who has been teleported from battling Nazis. And there's Spider-Ham (John Mulaney) who is rooted in Saturday morning kiddie cartoons, including the use of a dropping anvil.

This odd family unites to take down Kingpin and return to their universes, winking forever at themselves and the viewer, not a little like the "Deadpool."❑



Van Morrison's latest finds him in relaxed, swinging groove

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

Van Morrison, "The Prophet Speaks" (Caroline International)

The first thing longtime listeners to Van Morrison will notice is the lack of angst — his 40th studio album is missing the usual complaints about the greed and cynicism of the music business. The next and most remarkable aspect is the relaxed, easy groove that permeates through "The Prophet Speaks," which finds Morrison relishing his relatively recent incarnation as a jazz singer backed by an expressive, moody band.

It's rather remarkable that Morrison has been singing for well over half a century and he's rarely sounded so comfortable and unforced. He's once again using the considerable talents of Joey DeFrancesco and his band. The results are impressive, with 73-year-old Morrison focusing on the feel and texture of each song rather than seeking the revelatory, soul-stretching crescendos of some of his earlier works. He seems to have found a style that fits him as he ages, a blend of instruments, including Hammond organ and horns, that could have been heard in the late 1950s but sounds perfectly fresh today.

There are a few straightforward covers of old favorites, including John Lee Hooker's "Dimples" and Solomon Burke's "Gotta Get You Off My Mind," that let Morrison pay tribute to departed performers he used to share bills with. A half-dozen new songs — including "Spirit Will Provide" and the title track — conjure up Morrison's more mystical approach to lyrics and arrangement. ❑



This cover image released by Caroline International shows "The Prophet Speaks," a release by Van Morrison.

Associated Press

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad- Rennaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.





Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10.30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

Serena Williams launches pop-up shop during Art Basel Miami

By KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Strong. Sophisticated. Sexy. Like the tennis champ herself, Serena Williams' fashion line is all about power moves and she's hoping it will also inspire woman to find their own voice.

"I want everyone to be able to do that and to step into their power," she said Wednesday night at the launch of her first pop-up shop.

Williams launched her shop at the luxe Faena hotel during Miami's Art Basel where guests, including fellow tennis star Caroline Wozniacki, drank cocktails draped with fluffy pink cotton candy and snapped selfies from a life-size swing covered with botanicals.

Everything in the line, from a black sequined top with the word "Unbothered" to a crisp, white button-down that says "Slay" in red letters, is under $200.



In this, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 photo, tennis player Serena Williams, center, mingles with guests during the launch of her first pop-up shop at the Faena Bazaar in Miami Beach, Fla.
Associated Press

The 23-time Grand Slam champion not only designed all the clothing in the shop, but also painted all the art on the walls, saying many of the paintings took a month to complete because of their intricate textures. "I've painted for years, probably like ten years now. It's my outlet," she said. "I jokingly said I'm going to be at Art Basel one day."

It's been an awe-inspiring year for Williams, who said she was "pinching myself, like what the heck am I doing here," at the Wimbledon final in July after a difficult pregnancy and childbirth.

"If I can be in the final less than a year (after giving birth), I'm OK to handle my little baby who's starting to have tantrums. I'm OK to handle this tantrum baby. I can do it. I can do it," she joked, speaking of her 15-month old daughter.

Last month, GQ magazine named her its 2018 Woman of the Year, featuring an image of Williams wearing a black bodysuit and Chanel belt. The headline crossed out "Men" and some fans took offense.❑


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